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THE EVIDENCE
OF
THE MOTIVES AND OBJECTS
OF
THE BUSHMAN WARS,

1769—77.

INCLUDING AND DISTINGUISHING THE OFFICIAL AUTHORITIES CITED BY THE AUTHOR OF
RESEARCHES IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND RECENTLY RESTORED TO THE
COLONIAL ARCHIVES.

BY
DONALD MOODIE,
EDITOR OF THE CAPE RECORDS.



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE:
PUBLISHED BY A. S. ROBERTSON, CAPE TOWN, AND J. M. RICHARDSON, LONDON.
1841.

SAUL SOLOMON, *Gazette Office*, No. 50, St. George's-street.

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THE papers (dated April 19, May 17, Sept. 2, Oct. 1, and Nov. 7, 1774; Aug. 15, and Sept. 4, 1775; Feb. 15, March 1, 3, and 18, May 17, and Nov. 17, 1776; March 13, and 15, 1777,) which constitute nearly one half of the bulk of the subjoined evidence, are the "official authorities" cited in the following passages of the "Researches in South Africa;" and which, with exception of the two first, have been recently restored to the Colonial archives under the circumstances detailed in the published correspondence between the compiler and Dr. Philip.

A few extra copies of this portion of the Record have been published separately, prefaced by the corresponding passages of the Researches, in order to enable the Government and the public to determine the comparative value of, the Evidence; and the alleged contents of a portion of it, according to the best informed, and, elsewhere, most accredited source of the information hitherto accessible; with a view to the formation of a definitive opinion upon the expediency or inexpediency of completing the publication of the compiled Evidence.

D. M.

Extract from "Researches in South Africa, &c. by the Rev. JOHN PHILIP, D.D., Superintendent of the Missions of the London Missionary Society, at the Cape of Good Hope," (Vol. I. cap. 11. pp. 39 to 48,) "Encroachments of the Colonists—Plan of Extermination sanctioned by Government—First Commandos—Singular instance of devotedness of two Bushmen—Opperman's Commando—Government Orders."

"By such expeditions, which became more and more frequent as the boundaries of the settlement were extended, and by the constant demand for cattle on behalf of the Company, the Hottentots were soon reduced to a state of great indigence. They were now in a very different situation from that in which they had been found by the Dutch; when possessing more territory than they required for their own use, and caring little whether they were situate in the neighbourhood of a bay, or were inclosed within a range of inaccessible mountains, provided they found grass for their herds and flocks, they could view without jealousy the encroachments of the Colonists. While they were treated by their new visitors with apparent fairness and a certain show of kindness, these simple children of nature readily conceded to them as a boon, or for a trifling recompense, what they would have defended with their lives had attempts been made to deprive them of it by force. Ignorant of the insatiable and boundless desires of a rising community of mercantile adventurers, they had welcomed them with the generosity which marked their character, and which disposed them to share with their friends and allies all that their own necessities did not require.

"Thus they had permitted a power to gain stability among them, which never became an object of their dread till it could no longer be opposed.

"Finding themselves at last confined, harrassed, pressed upon, and plundered on all sides, and perceiving that no union of their strength against the Colonists would avail, they [the Hottentots] divided themselves into smaller parties, hoping thus more easily to find the means of subsistence, and to preserve from their oppressors the little property which they had still remaining. With this view, such of them as preferred famine itself to slavery, with the few sheep and goats left them, retired to the mountains, or to the most barren and uninviting parts of the deserts; and those who remained in the fertile territory gradually lost their independence, sinking into servitude as herdsmen and domestics of the boers. Nor were the former long protected by their seclusion against the cupidity of their encroaching neighbours.

"The flattering and fabulous accounts of the new Colony published by Kolben, drew thither every day new settlers from the mother country; and this influx of strangers, together with the children born to the former Colonists, occasioned an increasing demand for new lands and servants. Every addition of territory requiring additional hands to cultivate it, the Colonists, after having deprived the poor natives of their springs of water, now penetrated into the deserts and mountains to seize their women and children, and to reduce them to slavery, on the lands which their husbands and fathers had occupied as a free and independent people. The aborigines, who had a long time suffered with exemplary patience the injuries inflicted upon them, finding that no retreat could protect them from the cruelties of their oppressors, sought resources of annoyance from the desperate condition to which they were reduced; and the Colonists, smarting under the re-action of the accumulated evils they had heaped upon them during the space of seventy years, and which could no longer be endured, formed the project of making the Colonial Government a party in assisting them to enslave or exterminate all that remained of the original inhabitants. But to attempt so monstrous a project as this, or

even openly to seize the property of a whole nation, without some alleged provocation or imminent necessity, would, in all probability, have excited the disapprobation of the Governor, and retarded the accomplishment of their design. They sent, therefore, to the seat of Government the most vilifying representations, imputing to the Bushmen the most depraved and pernicious propensities, and accusing them of incessantly plundering the property of the Colonists. The Government, which had by this time, (1770) declined from the purity of its principles, was misled by the force of these charges, aided, perhaps, by a share of the colonial habits of feeling with respect to the natives which it had by this time acquired; this scheme of the Colonists was, therefore, speedily authorized, and it was not long before the administration entered as warmly into it as the Colonists themselves; for we find that in the year 1774, the whole race of Bushmen, or Hottentots, who had not submitted to servitude, was ordered to be seized or extirpated; the privilege of slavery was designed exclusively for the women and children; the men whose natural habits disqualified them for the purposes of the Colonists, and whose revenge was probably dreaded were destined to death.

"The decision of Government was followed by an order for the raising of three *Commandos*, or military parties, to proceed against this unfortunate race. These were usually raised by the different Field Cornets, who collected the Colonists on the frontier in their respective jurisdictions, having one Commandant over the whole. They were to be armed, and to scour the neighbouring country to discover the abodes of the Bushmen; and when they espied a kraal, they were to surprise it if possible, and, *singling out the men, to shoot them*. The surviving women and children were to be divided and shared among the members of the expedition, or distributed among the neighbouring farmers.

"There is no record remaining to show the district to which the first Commando was sent, or how long it continued in the field; but it appears that the party engaged in this service in the month of September, 1774, in the space of eight days succeeded in shooting ninety-six Bushmen. The women and children taken prisoners were divided among the men, but their number is not specified in the official report. Van Wyk was the name of the Commandant.

"The second commando was conducted by a boer named Marais. In his report to the Colonial Office, he states that he had taken one hundred and eighteen prisoners, who, it is presumed, must have been women and children, but the number of killed is not mentioned.

"The third commando, under Van der Merwe, was commissioned to the Bokkeveld, where they destroyed one hundred and forty-two Bushmen.

"Whether his [Van der Merwe's] humanity was shocked at his sanguinary employment, the duration of which, to fulfil the purposes of Government, must then have appeared indefinite, or whether he dreaded their superior numbers is uncertain; but in violation of his instructions, he concluded a peace with the remaining chiefs. The Government, on hearing of this transaction, highly resented it, and degraded all the Field Cornets who had concurred with him in the measure.

"And on the following year these expeditions appear to have been repeated twice; one on the 12th of June, succeeded in killing 48 of the devoted Bushmen, and would have followed up the carnage had not their numbers been insufficient. The number of wounded, would, in all likelihood, greatly exceed that of the slain on these occasions, as they never ceased to run or scramble among the rocks in search of hiding places, till life forsook them; appearing to dread being taken more than death itself.

"To convey a clear idea of the manner in which the commando system was carried on, I shall subjoin an extract from a journal of Van Jaarsveld, addressed to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch. After mentioning the names of the persons whom he had under his command, the place at which they met, and the names of the individuals who had refused to accompany him on the expedition, he goes on to state as follows:—

"Aug 4th, 1775. We proceeded in a north-east direction to the upper end of the Sea Cow River, when we met, unawares, one of these cattle plunderers, and also saw a great many of these thieves at a distance. In order to create no suspicion in the mind of the thief whom we had caught, we behaved peaceably to him in order to get the other thieves(*) in our power. Wherefore, it was thought good by every one in the commando to inform this Bushman, that we came as friends, and were only journeying to the above-named river to kill sea cows (hippopotami). We gave him a pipe and tobacco, and sent him to his companions to offer them our peace, that they also might come to us to show us the right road to that river. But we have not seen that thief since.

"5th. Journeyed north-east along the Sea Cow River, with the commando, to Eiland Drift, when we saw fires on the way burning in various directions, where they had driven the cattle, which we knew were the signals they made that a commando was coming.(1)

(*) "These "thieves" it must be remembered, were the original inhabitants of the country, and had been shortly before this period, plundered and proscribed by the Dutch."

(1) The following is a translation furnished by Dr. Philip on the 17th Aug. 1841, (vide "Correspondence," p. 57,) of Van Jaarsveld's Journal of 5th Aug. 1775:

"Aug. 5. N.E. with the commando, along the Sea Cow River to Eiland Drift, along the road we discovered fire, running and lighted from place to place, which we knew to be a signal appointed by the robbers to warn one another of the approach of the

“ 6th. Took 12 men and 2 wagons, with which I went to Rondekop; when on the road we unexpectedly met with five thieves, and addressed them in the same way as we did the first one; and as a token of peace, we killed a sea cow for them at the Kop.

“ 7th. Sixteen Bushmen came to us at Rondekop, from the mountains to the south, when we killed some more sea cows, to entice the thieves with their flesh, because I knew no other way to pay them for their continual murdering and stealing our cattle. I thus left the bait, and departed with our men to Blauwe Bank.

“ 8th. Killed twelve sea cows, and ordered, through the medium of the Bushmen I had with me, my men whom I had left at Eilands Drift, to join me, which they did about sunset.

“ 9th. We remained at the place where we had killed the sea cows, until another party of Bushmen came up to us, whom I questioned, through the interpreter, where their Captain lived. They answered, “ that he lived in the Roodebergen (Red Mountains).” I told them they ought to go to call their Captain to show us the way to the Great River (Gariep). They answered it would be useless; for they knew assuredly he would not come. I immediately concluded it might be because all the stolen cattle were driven in that direction. Shortly after something was heard by us like the firing of muskets, whence we surmised that some of the thieves had gone back, and again stolen cattle, and that the men who remained at home had assembled and retaken the stolen cattle, which I believe the Bushmen we had with us also supposed. I was confirmed in this my supposition on the following morning, because they all secretly left us during the night, and went to their hiding places.

“ 10th. Proceeded from Blauwe Bank along the river about two hours, with the whole commando, to a place called by us Keerom, whence, the manners of the natives being known to me by experience, I dispatched, the same evening, some spies to Blauwe Bank to learn whether the Bushmen were not with the sea cows; for they will always assemble in the night where they know something is to be had.

“ About midnight the spies returned, saying, they had seen a great number of Bushmen there, when I immediately repaired thither with the commando, waiting till daybreak, which soon appeared; and having divided the commando into parties, we slew the thieves, and on searching, found one hundred and twenty-two dead; five escaped by swimming across the river.

“ After counting the slain, we examined their goods, to see whether anything could be found, whereby it might be ascertained that they were plunderers; when ox-hides and horns were found, which they were carrying with them for daily use.”

“ The ideas entertained by this Commandant of the nature of his expedition, are sufficiently illustrated by the tone of his journal. It was to extirpate the “ thieves;” but *he has failed to record a single fact to show how they merited this title.* The ox-hides and horns found among them after the massacre afford no proof of their guilt, as these might have been the produce of their own flocks before *they were plundered by the Colonists*, or they might have been honestly obtained from the frontier boers or Hottentots.

“ This expedition a few days afterwards, having surrounded a kraal, fired upon it, and either killed or made captive the whole. Two spies were, about the same time, sent out with two Bushmen, who had promised to show them where some of their countrymen were concealed. But these Bushmen, instead of conducting them right, only deceived them. A few days afterwards, therefore, seven other spies were sent out with them; and they were assured that, in case of a second failure, they should certainly suffer death; but if they pointed out their comrades, they would as certainly be spared. After proceeding about an hour, the Bushmen, resolved not to betray their countrymen, fell upon the ground, and on being commanded to rise, behaved as if they were dead. When no answer could be obtained from them, blows were inflicted; but as their determination was inflexible, and the invaders could not remove them, they slew them on the spot. As the Bushmen were fully aware of the consequences of their resolution, their conduct was an instance of patriotism not surpassed by any thing in ancient or modern history. But the individuals who composed the expedition appear to have been utterly incapable of appreciating this magnanimous action; and it failed to save those in whose behalf it was performed: for the spies having ascertained their places of refuge, conducted the whole commando thither; and early in the morning firing into their caves, they suffered not an individual to escape. Forty-three were killed, and seven children made captives, who informed them that a Captain was among the slain, but not the chief Captain who had command over the whole Sea Cow River. The Commandant having informed the government that he was in great want of powder and lead, *received, in consequence, fifteen hundred pounds of powder, three thousand pounds of lead, and three thousand flints.*

“ In the year 1777, several commandos were sent against the Bushmen. One under the command of Opperman, met with a kraal in which were three hundred men, but, his number being small, he killed only twenty. Anxious, however, for greater means of destruction, having informed government of the fact, he

commando, and lit continually in the direction in which the cattle of *S. C. Smit were driven by the robbers; in consequence of which no Bushmen came to us*, as they formerly used to do when we went to shoot sea cows.”

In the same translation the second robbery stated to have been committed by the Bushmen, is thus given: “ Christian Stephanus Smidt has been robbed of eighteen draught oxen.”

For the full contents of the journal, and the mode in which the name of Smidt is written in the original paper,—*Vide infra* pp. 43—4. Note by D. M.

sent a letter, signed by six and twenty Colonists, stating that two commandos had been sent against the Bushmen, but their numbers were so great that they could not subdue them, and that, in consequence, many farmers had been compelled to leave the Sneeuberg for Bruintjes Hoogte.".....

Extracts from "Researches in South Africa," Vol. II.

"The account of the commando system, employed against the native tribes, already given, (see Vol. I.p. 41, et seq.) renders it unnecessary to recapitulate here the revolting details of this disgraceful chapter of Colonial history. I only request the reflecting reader to retain the facts, there stated on *official authority*, in his recollection, while we proceed with the more recent history of the degraded and persecuted race of Hottentots, now denominated "savage Bushmen" (Vol. II. p.p. 3 and 4).

"If the following extract of a letter (written by a gentleman,* who was several years *clergyman of a frontier district* of the Colony, containing many thousand square miles of the Bushman country) is no longer to be regarded as descriptive of the amicable relations which then subsisted between the Colonists and the Bushmen, it may, nevertheless be received as an honourable testimony in favour of the character of that calumniated people:—

"The farmers on the frontiers are entirely dependent on the Bushmen for their welfare. Few, if any, have either slaves or Hottentots, consequently they have no means of getting their cattle properly tended without their assistance. Such farmers as possess Bushmen have been in the habit of committing to them the charge of their flocks, and they have proved such faithful shepherds, that the farmers have not hesitated to give them some hundred ewes and other cattle, to sojourn with them beyond the limits of the Colony. The Bushman having received a reward of some tobacco, dakka, (or hemp leaves for smoking,) and, perhaps, two or three ewes, leaves the habitation of the Colonist, drives the cattle into distant parts, with the fertility of which he is well acquainted; and, after an absence of some months, returns to the farmer his cattle in such an improved condition, that had they not his particular mark upon them, he would with difficulty credit that they were the same animals which, on account of their leanness, the Bushman could with difficulty remove from his farm. Sometimes the farmer has put the fidelity of the Bushman to the test, by sending one or other of his acquaintance to try whether he could not obtain a sheep, by promising him some reward; but the instances are rare in which he has succeeded. Many farmers on the frontiers declared to me, that were it not for the Bushmen, they saw no means of breeding cattle." (pp. 10—11.)

"The following extract is from a letter dated in 1822 from the Rev. A. Faure, the respectable Colonial Clergyman already mentioned, and who was then minister of the district Church at Graaff-Reinet. It is deserving of notice, that this letter was written after visiting the sites of those Missionary stations, and between five and six years after the abolition of the missions. Five or six years after those poor Bushmen had been robbed of their teachers, we have it on the authority of this respectable Clergyman, who had no interest to serve in giving his testimony, that the effects of the missionaries' labours among the natives was so visible and striking as to make it matter of deep regret to every lover of mankind, that the Colonial Government should have ever issued an order for the recall of the missionaries:—

"I visited," says Mr. Faure, "the spot lately occupied by Mr. Smith. Here I found a beautiful garden, an excellent vineyard, fine wheat, &c. &c. Some of the Bushmen, who Mr. Smith baptized, had acquired very rational ideas of the principles of the Christian religion; and appeared to feel its constraining influences in their habitual conduct. They were zealous in trying to convey the same inestimable blessings to their unhappy countrymen, who live without God and without hope in the world. It was delightful to hear the children sing the praises of Jehovah, and to witness the progress they had made in spelling and reading. These facts, which have come under my own observation, prove that the conversion of this race of immortal beings is not impossible. It is indeed lamentable that these missions should be relinquished; and it would be most desirable that means should again be employed for their re-establishment." (p. 27.)

"Considering the period the Cape has been in the hands of the English, whose administration has certainly been exempt from the charge of weakness, it might naturally have been imagined that the alleged change had taken place. But at the very time that these assertions were made and believed in England, and its inhabitants were flattering themselves in the belief of our superior humanity—at that very time, the system which rendered the Dutch name so infamous was carrying on, in all its horrors, under the English government. Impatient to obtain undisturbed possession of the Bushman country, and tired of the slow method of exterminating the natives by commandos of boers, under the Field Cornets, a plan was devised to employ the Cape regiment, and the British soldiers then on the frontiers of the Colony, in this work of death.....[The details here omitted relate to a period, 1816, of which the Evidence is still unpublished.]

"In corroboration of this statement, I shall content myself with giving a few extracts, out of many which I might produce, from letters addressed to me by gentlemen of the first respectability in the Colony. One gentleman writes me in a letter dated from Beaufort in 1821, that the commando system still continues:—

"There have been" he says, "two commandos from this district against the poor Bushmen within these few weeks. I have had several conversations with individuals, who have been engaged on these expeditions, and they talk of shooting Bushmen, with the same feelings as if the poor creatures were wild beasts."

"Another gentleman, in the service of government, and possessed of accurate information, in a letter dated Graaff-Reinet, 1822, writes to me as follows:—

"The Bushman country to the Orange River, is now, I may say, entirely in possession of the Colonists. The land possessing

* "The Rev. A. Faure, now Minister of the Dutch Colonial Church, Cape Town. The high esteem in which this gentleman is universally held, shows that a Minister may be respected by the Colonists, and be, at the same time, a friend to the natives."

springs of water has been measured, and given to them in perpetual quit-rent, without reserving any thing for the poor natives. Should a Bushman, deprived of his game and the means of subsistence, by the encroachment of the farmers, happen to steal a sheep to keep himself or his family from starving, if apprehended and taken alive, he is publicly flogged under the scaffold, branded with a hot iron, put in irons, and condemned to hard labour.

"The poor Bushman may indeed say, 'All the game in my country is killed by the farmers, or what they have not killed, they have driven away; their flocks are now feeding where the herds of game on which we formerly fed used to graze; and, if we take a lamb, or a few sheep of these white men, they tie our hands, flog us, load our feet with irons, and put us to death!'

"I have examined the documents from which you have translated and transcribed the testimonies, which show the treatment the Bushmen received from 1774 to 1795, and can vouch for their correctness. (1) I have no hesitation in saying that I am fully satisfied, that were the records of Tulbagh, now Worcester, and those of Graaff-Reinet, Beaufort, and Cradock examined, you might find details equally shocking, down to 1822.

"While England boasts of her humanity, and represents the Dutch as brutes and monsters, for their conduct towards the Hottentots and Bushmen, a narrow inspection into the proceedings which have taken place during the last two or three years, will bring to light a system, taken altogether, perhaps exceeding in cruelty any thing recorded in the facts you have collected respecting the atrocities committed under the Dutch government.

"The clergyman of the district of Graaff-Reinet stated to me, that in 1819, when he was called, in the exercise of his duty, to attend at the execution of a Bushman, who was condemned on the charge of having been accessory to the slaughter of a slave belonging to a frontier boer; the poor creature was so ignorant of my friend's character, and so incapable of appreciating the intention of his visit, that, on the first introduction to him, he accosted him in the following terms:—"I knew you would kill me, you murderer! my father always told me to beware of the white men, for they would kill me, and I see he has spoken the truth!" (pp. 37—8—9.)

"The Dutch government from 1774 to 1795, had a different way of doing those things from what has been adopted by the English: they made a merit of extirpating Bushmen, and we profess to hold their conduct in abhorrence, while, under the cover of proclamations full of professions of humanity, we have been equally prosecuting the same system." (Ib. 264.)

"In the year 1774 the commando system began. Previous to that period the Bushmen were in the habit visiting the Colony on friendly terms. The manner in which these commandos were conducted against the Bushmen under the Dutch government has been described by Barrow and Col. Collins, and many copies of the original documents of those persons who had the conducting of them have been given in these volumes." (*) (Ib. p. 270.)

"In the last extract quoted from Barrow, we have the key to these expeditions; it is there candidly admitted that the object of the farmer in these "abominable expeditions" is that of procuring children because Hottentots were becoming scarce." (2) (Ib. p. 274.)

(1) *This and some of the foregoing passages were placed in Italics for the purpose of bringing them under the notice of the Rev. Mr. Faure; with whom was held the following correspondence:—*

Cape Town, October 18, 1841.

Sir,—I beg to inform you that I am about to publish, in contrast with some of the restored papers referred to in your letter of the 9th July last, passages from the 10th, 27th, 37th and 38th pages of the second volume of Philip's Researches, where may be seen several extracts from letters stated to have been written by you, at Graaff-Reinet, in 1822, on the subject of the Bushmen, and one extract (p. 37—9) from a letter from a gentleman whose name is withheld, but who writes on the same subject, in the same year, and from the same place; and who vouches for the correctness of the testimonies extracted by Dr. Philip, from the papers, 1774 to 1795, which, from your said letter of the 9th July, would seem to have been in your *exclusive possession* from the time when they were given to you by Dr. P. until recently discovered among your other papers.

The passages which, in prosecution of what I deem a just object, I am now about to publish, have only now fallen under my notice; and seem calculated, with reference to your letters of the 9th July, 16th August, and 2d September, and to the last paragraph of my letter of the 4th Sept. to give rise to much premature animadversion, if published without further explanation than is in my power to supply.

I have, therefore, deemed it just and proper to bring the subject to your notice, and have now the honor to state, that any explanation which you may furnish, will, should you desire it, be published at the same time.

A proof sheet of the passages referred to is at your command if desired; and as I shall stop the press until made aware of your wishes on the subject, I trust you will favor me with an early communication.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

D. MOODIE.

The Rev. A. FAURE, B.D., Senior Minister of the
Reformed Church, Cape Town.

Leeuwen Rust, 22d October, 1841.

Sir,—Your letter of the 18th instant I received yesterday on my return from the country; and in reply, I beg to inform you, that I well remember having written a letter, whilst at Graaff-Reinet, to Dr. Philip, in reply to one from him containing queries regarding the Bushmen, in which I related the reciprocal services exchanged at that time between the farmers and them, as I ascertained on the spot; but I am not the writer of the letter mentioned as "written by a gentleman whose name is withheld;" and, therefore, am not aware of any object requiring my troubling you for the proof sheets offered in your last paragraph.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

A. FAURE.

(2) The motives and objects of the Bushmen wars were thus represented (on the 26th August, 1829,) subsequently to the publication of the Researches, in a Colonial print, at that period the organ of the opinions of Dr. Philip; and similar opinions, originally founded upon the evidence of the annexed documents, have been extensively promulgated in Europe.

"For more than a hundred years the Bushman has been treated as an enemy to whom no quarter could be given. His cattle,

(*) "See Vol. I. from page 41 to 53." Note by Dr. P.

The following extract is the only portion of the Report of the late Committee on Aborigines which applies to the subject and dates of the annexed Evidence.

“ Besides the subjugated Hottentots, there were other Africans of the same or of kindred tribes, who were early designated under the term Bushmen, from their disdaining to become bondsmen, and choosing rather to obtain a precarious subsistence in the fields or forests. From their fastnesses, they were apt to carry on a predatory warfare against the oppressors of their race, and in return were hunted down like wild beasts. This state of things is thus described by Captain Stockenstrom:—

The white Colonists having, from the first commencement of the settlement, gradually encroached on the territory of the natives, whose ejection (as is too well known) was accompanied with great injustice, cruelty, and bloodshed, the most hostile feelings were entertained by the weaker party towards those whom they considered as their oppressors. The Aborigines who did not become domesticated (as it was called) like the Hottentots, seeing no chance of retaining or recovering their country, withdrew into the interior as the whites advanced, and being driven to depredations by the diminution of the game, which constituted their principal means of subsistence, and which gradually disappeared when more constantly hunted, and as the waters became permanently occupied by the new comers, they often made desperate attacks on the latter, and in their turn, were guilty of great atrocities. Some of the rulers of the Colony in those days were, no doubt, favourable to measures of conciliation, but the evil soon got beyond their power of control. In proportion as the pastoral population increased, more and more land was taken possession of, and more desperate and bloody became the deeds of revenge on both sides, until the extermination of the enemy appeared even to the government the only safe alternative, at least it became its avowed object, as the encouragement given to the hostile expeditions, the rewards of the successful commanders of the same, and many documents still extant, clearly demonstrate. The contest being beyond comparison unequal, the colonial limits widened with great rapidity. Athin white population soon spread even over the great chains of the Suven [Sneeuw?] and Newveld mountains, whilst the hordes, who preferred precarious and often starving independence to servitude, were forced into the deserts and fastnesses bordering on the frontier.

It will be at once perceived that I am here alluding to a period of the colonial history not long previous to the close of the last century, and that the Aborigines spoken of are the Bushmen and some tribes of Hottentots; for our relations with the Caffres and others are somewhat of a different nature, as I will show in the sequel. Thus the isolated position of most of the intruders afforded the strongest temptation to the savages occasionally to wreak their vengeance. The numerous herds of our peasantry grazing on the usurped lands proved too seductive a bait for the hungry fugitives, who saw the pasture of their rocks (the game) thus occupied; but their partial success against individual families was generally dearly bought by the additional loss of life and land in the long run.

In 1774, an order was issued for the extirpation of the whole of the Bushmen, and three commandos, or military expeditions, were sent out to execute it. The massacre at that time was horrible, and the system of persecution continued unremitting, so that, as we have seen, Mr. Barrow records it came to be considered a meritorious act to shoot a Bushman.” (Report, p. 27.)

for he once had cattle, have been seized by way of reprisal for the losses, real or pretended, of his pursuers, and his children, if caught, were distributed as slaves among his conquerors. It is not intended to rake up the ashes of the commandos of last century, but it was necessary to refer to them to show that rapine and violence beget each other.

“ The balance of the plundering trade in cattle also, has always been unfavorable to the Bushman. He occasionally procured a few bullocks or sheep by this primitive sort of commerce; but the ensuing commando swept off the herds of a hundred vallies at once. The truth is, the frontier christians were fond of commandos. They laugh when you tell them so, and admit that such things were “bad but necessary,” nor shall we deny that they often received great provocation.” [The remaining passage contains a brief statement of the object of publishing the Evidence.] “ It is not our business at present to condemn or acquit either party. We only wish to find out the true cause, and the true remedy for the mischief.”

THE RECORD;

OR,

A SERIES OF OFFICIAL PAPERS RELATIVE TO THE CONDITION AND TREATMENT
OF THE

NATIVE TRIBES OF SOUTH AFRICA.

PART III. 1769—1795.]

[No. 1. 1769—1774.

1769. Nov. 14. Extract of Resolution of Council, 14th November 1769.

... And considering that, for several years back, many inhabitants, as well of the Swellendam District as of Stellenbosch, in order to procure a better subsistence for their families, (1) have settled themselves upon farms situated beyond the limits, which by the Resolution of 31st August 1745 were specified for the Jurisdiction of the respective Landdrosts, whereby disputes have frequently arisen betwixt said officers as to their Jurisdiction; It is, therefore, thought best, upon the proposition of the Governor, in order to obviate such disputes, to cause a more exact line of division to be made by the said Landdrosts, assisted by two Heemraeden and the Secretary of each District.

While, at the same time, they shall be required particularly to take into consideration, if among the said newly established cattle farms, there may also be some, the occupation of which, in consequence of their too remote position, might be deemed to be inexpedient.

Regarding both which subjects, they shall render a proper report in writing, in order that the Council may, thereupon, come to such Resolution as may be deemed most advantageous for the said Colonies.

In the Castle the Good Hope, day and year aforesaid.

R. TULBAGH,
P. HACKER, &c.

1770. Feb. 7. Report of Landdrosts and Commissioned Heemraeden of Stellenbosch and Swellendam.

HONORABLE SIR,—

The Undersigned, Landdrosts of the Districts of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, as also of Swellendam, assisted by Heemraeden commissioned out of their respective Courts, and by their Secretaries, in pursuance of your Excellency's respected order for fixing the Boundaries, which, in consequence of the increased extent and population of both Districts, were still undetermined, proceeded in company from Hex River on the 4th of December 1769, travelling inland along the range of mountains called Swarte Berg,—behind which, on the Southern portion of this mountain, the Colonists reside who belong to the Swellendam district,—and first visited and inquired of them concerning a road, by which it was maintained, by the second undersigned, that the Inhabitants of the Leeuwen River, the Swarte Berg, and that vicinity, could easily come to Swellendam, and might accordingly be incorporated with that District; having first proceeded to inquire as to a certain road said to pass through the Swarte Berg, where the Buffel and Leeuwen Rivers unite, and are said to discharge themselves into the Gauritz—the first undersigned, with his Heemraeden, offered to the second undersigned to examine the same on horseback—but the fifth undersigned stating that no road could be made by which an inhabitant, with loaded wagon, could travel, but merely a track frequented only by hawkers, as he had learnt from the farmer H. Swanepoel, who had passed that way to the Roggeveld, with tobacco and brandy,—the undersigned directed their course towards the Oliphants River, and on the 16th arrived at a certain great valley, lying along the Swarte Berg, betwixt the sources of the Oliphants and Gamtoos Rivers,—when the first undersigned repeated his offer to the second undersigned to proceed on horseback to inspect the Oliphants River, which passes through the mountains, about a day's journey from that place; but the conversation previously (2) used, or, in consequence of the badness of the

(1) See Despatches to Holland, 1st March 1779, and 19th April 1786.

(2) There is here a hiatus in the MS. from decay, for the detached words of which see Dutch Edition.

road, had encountered the danger of being overturned, and therefore the inhabitants residing there rather than use such a road—that their wagons and cattle might be kept in order—would rather take a circuit of about four days' journey than see them exposed to casualties by such a troublesome and dangerous road; furthermore, it was the same thing under whose jurisdiction they resided, as they were subject to the same supreme government.

Having seriously deliberated upon these points, the following agreement was concluded under the favorable approbation of your Excellency, to wit:—

That the Swarte Berg, as far as the said valley, which commences at the Touws Mountains, and therefore must be considered part of the so-called *Straat*, stretching E.N.E., as far as the eye could reach, from the said valley, should form a permanent boundary between the two districts. Thus the inhabitants of Leeuwen River, together with those residing on this or the Northern side of the mountain, including also the farms lying within the mountains, of Daniel Malan, Johannes Jurgen de Beer, A. Oberholzer, B. Liebenberg, G. R. Opperman, P. Erasmus, David Malan, C. Liebenberg, D. Rossouw, D.'s son, and W. Meyburg, shall belong to Stellenbosch; and on the other hand, the farms lying South of the said mountain, to Swellendam,—having ridden to this place from the Hex River, along a level road, keeping generally an E.S.E. course, in 78 hours.

After the boundary was thus fixed, the undersigned changed their course, and travelled N.E., to the western angle of the Camdeboo mountains, in 28 hours, which mountains they reached on the morning of the 19th; and on the 21st, having set out in an easterly direction, they arrived on the same evening, after ten hours' travelling, at the furthest place inhabited there, being that of the burgher Rudolph Godliep Opperman, named the *Uytkomst*; having left this place on the 22d, our course being S.E., after travelling 33 hours, we reached the first sprout of the Fish River. On the 24th, in the evening, two Hottentots came to the undersigned, who, on being asked if they were going to the Kafirs to barter cattle, and on their answering yes, they promised also to go with [us] and show the way, as they intended the next . . . (*here occurs another blank*) by the undersigned

recently no

Kafirs cattle to *r* were
upon which came *rden* of yes, and they two
years ago, adding, further, that there were three Europeans with the wagons, who had also encamped upon the spot where the undersigned lay, and had also bartered from the Kafirs about as many cattle as the undersigned had with them; the undersigned further asked them whether any of the Camdeboo people, who accompanied us as guides, had been then present, and if they also knew one of them; but after answering no—upon getting sight of the farmer Jacob Joubert, they said, that they knew that master (baas), who had been with the said cattle barterers: on which it was replied, by the second undersigned, “we know that, for that man (denoting said Joubert) had permission.”

On the 29th, the conversation turning upon the proximity of the Kafirs, (1) and it having been said by Joubert that they lay a day's journey thence, it was resolved, in order to inquire into that point, to send said Joubert with three other men in that direction, who having travelled seven hours on horseback and one hour on foot, besides, the said Joubert pointed out some dung of horses as well as of cattle, saying that they were those of the Kafirs—which, however, may have been traces of hawkers who had been there in former times; that after firing a shot, and making a fire, without any of that people making their appearance, they returned, the fifth undersigned having, upon their return, said, “I thought so, for the Kafirs, although they have spread out of their own country, lie still fully two days' journey from this.”

After which, upon the first day of January of this year, a Hottentot named Samson, with some more of his tribe, having come to us, the undersigned interrogated him, through some of the Hottentots of our party, who could speak the language, where the so-called Captain Ruyter (2) lay, and whether he had removed from his place, on which we received for answer, no; that he still lay upon his old place; and, further, upon the question whether the Kafirs lay near this place, they replied, that when the undersigned should get into the beaten wagon road they would still be two days travelling with the wagon distant from Ruyter, who lay close to the Kafirs, which people, according to their pointing out, lay to the S.E. of us, so that the statement of Joubert that the Kafirs had moved northwards, and thus were nearer to this place, appears to be false.

Having further prosecuted our journey, along a difficult road, the undersigned, on the 2d

(1) See Sept. 30, 1689. July 10, 1737. July 31, 1752. Dec. 21, 1755. Dec. 18, 1779. Aug. 5, 1789, and Nov. 27, 1793.

(2) See April 1764. Sparrman, 1775. Collins' Report, 1809.

reached a road which had been formerly used, coming from the District of Swellendam, and leading to the so-called Hermanus kraal, and consequently eastward to the abodes of the Kafirs, which Kafirs lay about two short days' journey from this place; the undersigned having travelled from the first branch of the Fish River hither, in thirty hours, holding a course S. by W., at which place several Hottentots, of whom two spoke good Dutch, came to us, who on being asked by us whence they came, the undersigned received for answer, that they came from Capt. Ruyter, and that they had bartered from him 9 cattle to be used as pack-oxen, on which the undersigned further asking, what they had paid for those cattle, they stated that they had bartered for them, some iron, copper, and beads, adding, upon being asked where their cattle were, that they were close by, but that their proper place of abode was on the upper part of Oliphants River, in which direction they proceeded, the undersigned not having seen, however, the cattle in question.

After which again decamping, we took up our quarters, on the night of the 4th, at the Coucha, after passing the Sondags River, which falls into the sea about six hours to the E. S. E., reckoning from the ford.

At the Coucha we found a great quantity of cattle dung, also the remains of a straw hut which had stood there, this we were subsequently informed—by three men named D. J. van der Merwe, Hendrik Freyne, and Jochim Koekemoer, whom we sent on to the burgher Jacob Kok, for fresh oxen—had been occupied by the burgher Andries Dreyer, who had lain there for some time, with a herd of cattle, as they had been told by the Hottentots who had charge at Loerie River, of the cattle of the former burgher Senator S. Jacob van Reenen.

Having passed the Zwartkops and Van Stadens Rivers, our course from the Bosjesmans River to this having been West, we rode N. W. to the Gamtoos River,—but out-spanning at the so-called Galgenbosch, over the Van Stadens River, we found there also, a great quantity of dung, some of which had long lain there, and some had been deposited by a herd of cattle about four days previously, which herd, as it further appeared from some straw huts still partially standing, had lain there for a considerable time together, upon the first undersigned asking his Heemraden, who might have lain here, the second undersigned stated that the cattle were Kok's, who was found with his cattle about an hour's distance off.

Having also passed the Loerie River, the undersigned fell in with a herd of cattle grazing, belonging to said Van Reenen, and reported to be about four hundred in number, after which having outspanned near the ford of Gamtoos River, close to the kraal of the Hottentot Capt. Kees, and of a certain Hottentot named Joris, with his people and cattle, the said Kees came with some other Hottentots to pay their respects to the undersigned, which Joris, who, as is before said, lay in the same kraal with Kees, the second undersigned ordered to decamp with his cattle, and return to his old place, as he had too many cattle, and thus injured the pasture of the inhabitants.

The undersigned again discovered much cattle dung near their encampment, which they learnt was that of the cattle of the farmer Jacobus Schepers, who had lain there some years before.

Having pursued our journey S. W. to the residence of the said J. Kok, upon the Great Seekoe River, the undersigned arrived there the same evening, having travelled from the above mentioned road leading to the Kafirs, to Gamtoos River W., and then to the Gamtoos River N.W., while, for the further elucidation of our observations, it must be stated, that the Koucha lies twenty-one hours, the Galgenbosch 7 hours, and the Loerie River four hours, from the Gamtoos River.

The undersigned now, in respectfully submitting to your Excellency their considerations with respect to the so-named Camdeboo Mountains, take the liberty to state that if, as is before said, the boundary is formed by the Swarte Berg, and that those residing to the North appertain to Stellenbosch, therefore the undersigned are of opinion, under approbation of your Excellency, that if the inhabitants of Swarte Berg, in consequence of the difficulty of the passes leading to Swellendam, must belong to the Stellenbosch District, so much the more must the inhabitants of that more distant range be therein comprised, and thus should be incorporated with Stellenbosch.

While with regard to the question concerning the farms so situated, whether the same may be continued in loan, with safety and to the advantage of the Honorable Company, and also whether more farms may be given out in loan there, the undersigned must submit, with all respect, that as there is there no road leading to Kafirland, by means of which any illicit traffic by bartering cattle can be carried on, and on the other hand, as in those countries, there are no other inhabitants than wild Bushmen and Hottentots (¹), who possess no cattle, and who must subsist solely by the game

(¹) See April 28, 1655—Examinations of Hottentot Chiefs, 1701, and early papers *passim* for the distinct habits of the tribes called successively Sonquas, Ubiquas, Makrykas, Bosiemans, Bosjesmans, and Bushmen.

in the fields, and therefore on that side also no evil is to be apprehended,—the undersigned are therefore of opinion, that the farms already there, should not only remain on loan, but even, should such be your Excellency's pleasure, still more farms might be given out along the Bosjesmans Mountains to the eastward, as far as a certain Height, lying between the Bley River, being the last or most easterly branch of the Sondags River, and the first branch of the Fish River—named by us De Bruyns Hoogte—for it is true, that if the farms now lying in Camdeboo could remain as they now are, it would be, indeed, better; but as the country thereabouts is a more profitable tract, and rich in grass, it is to be apprehended that the occupiers of those farms would avail themselves of the opportunity, and take their *trek* farms there,—from which the Honorable Company would not derive any the least income; but, if as has been said, farms were given out as far as the so named Hoogte, the Honorable Company would then receive the stipulated loan rent, and thus, at the same time, a fixed boundary could be agreed upon, on this side.

The first, third, and fourth undersigned maintaining that the extension to the so-called De Bruyns Hoogte, would correspond in distance with the Gamtoos River, and accordingly, the farms which may be given out there must not be considered as more distant than the loan farms at present granted upon the Gamtoos River.

Trusting that we have thus complied with the respected intention of your Excellency, we submit this as our humble Report.

L. S. FABER,
J. F. MENTZ,
M. MELCK,
J. B. HOFFMAN,
N. DE BRUYN.

Stellenbosch, 7th February 1770.

To the Honorable RYK TULBAGH, &c., Governor of the Cape of Good Hope.

HONORABLE SIR,—

The undersigned, together with Landdrost and Heemraeden of the District of Stellenbosch, in compliance with your respected order, departed from the farm of Daniel Hugo, lying on the further side of the Hex River, holding generally an E.S.E. course—along a range of mountains called the Swarte Berg, and which range is intersected at two different points, namely, the kloof where the Buffalo River, which takes its source in the Roggeveld, and that of the Oliphants River, which kloofs may be used as a wagon road, also that both rivers chiefly form the Gouritz River—came to a valley called the Groote Valley, being a branch of the Gamtoos River, in seventy-nine hours.

Having, then, minutely inspected the situation of the range of mountains, and considered all that would tend to the advantage and profit of the inhabitants, the undersigned are of opinion, under the wise approval of your Excellency, that the Swartenberg, as far as to the Groote Valley, may serve as a fixed boundary between the Colonies on both sides; namely, all that lies to the North and beyond the Mountains may belong to the District of Stellenbosch, and all to the South, to Swellendam.

The undersigned cannot omit to inform your Excellency of their further journey. That they travelled thence, through a desert and uninhabitable country, to the Camdeboo, and along the Camdeboo Mountains to the last farm of the Heemraad Mr. Hendrick Kloete, lying on the Swarte River, (which was the farm of the burgher Wagenaar, who recently perished by accident)—in forty-two and a half hours; the Swarte River being a branch of the Sondags River, and thence to the Fish River—along the Camdeboo Mountains, which extend, although under another name, of Bosjesmans Mountains, to the Fish River—in twenty-eight hours, with a course S.E. and S.E. by S., thence transversely (*dwars*) across the desert country in twenty-five hours,—the course as above, S.E. and S. by W., when we came into a wagon-road, which was unbeaten, and had, indeed, been used by travellers in former times, having then Kafirland to the East behind us, and thence to the Gamtoos River,—in forty-two hours, the courses W.N.W. and W., having seen the coast in the distance: and thence to Swellendam in ninety-one hours;—courses as before, W. and W.N.W.

Thinking thus to have fulfilled our duty, we submit this as our humble report. (¹)

NIC. DE BRUYN,
HERMANUS STEYNN.

(¹) This paper bears original signatures, and as it was found at Swellendam, and is not dated, it would appear that it was not forwarded to Cape Town. No copy of either report is to be found in the Colonial Office.

1770. FEB. 13. Extract of Resolution of Council.

The Landdrost of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, Lucas Sigismundus Faber, together with the Landdrost of Swellendam, Joachim Frederick Mentz, having, with the assistance of two Heemraden, and the Secretary of each district, executed the duty which was required of them, by the Resolution of the 14th November, of last year, with regard to arranging a more exact boundary between the two Districts, as also with regard to the inquiry, about the most remote farms, and those officers having delivered to the Governor a detailed Report of their journey referring to those points, and what further they had discovered, which was now produced to the Council, it was therefore, after reading of the said Report, thought proper and resolved.

That according to the arrangement made by the said Commission, subject to the approbation of this Council, the Swarteberg, which rises out of the Touws Mountains, and therefore must be considered to be a part of the so-called *Straat* extending to the East North East, as far as can be seen with the eye, from the Great Valley situated between the sources of the Oliphants and Gamtoos Rivers, shall be a fixed line of boundary, so that the farms lying on the Leeuwen Rivier, as well as on this, or the northernmost part of the mountains, including the farms, situated among the mountains, of the farmers D. Malan, J. J. de Beer, A. Oberholzer, B. Liebenberg, G. R. Opperman, P. Erasmus, D. Malan, C. Liebenberg, D. Rossouw, Dz., W. Myberg, shall appertain to Stellenbosch ; and on the other hand, those to the South of the said mountains, to Swellendam.

That, on account of the considerations contained in said report, the inhabitants residing in the said Camdeboo shall also be under the jurisdiction of the Landdrost of Stellenbosch, and further, that as many farms shall be given out in the said Camdeboo country, and particularly along the Bushman mountains, lying to the East as far as De Bruin's Hoogte, as can be there conveniently depastured, upon which point the Governor was pleased to intimate, that as His Excellency did not deem it proper that the said farms should be granted to any but respectable persons of good name and repute, in order, as far as possible, to prevent all irregularities upon the said remote farms, His Excellency would give the directions necessary to the attainment of that object.

And as it has further appeared, by said report, to the especial displeasure of the Council, that the aforesaid Commission, on their way from the Fish to the Gamtoos River, met several persons grazing considerable herds of cattle, according to their own pleasure, and without possessing there, or thereabouts, farms in loan from the Company ; while others did not scruple to wander about with their cattle, hither and thither, several days' journey from their loan farms ;—it was accordingly taken into consideration that the same not only tends to the evident injury of the Honorable Company, with reference to the income derived from the rents of cattle farms, but that it must be concluded, beyond doubt, that such covetous conduct is chiefly practised in order to enable them more conveniently to carry on an illicit traffic in the bartering of cattle, whether with the Hottentots residing thereabouts, or with the so-called Kafirs, as—among other appearances noticed by the said Commission—sufficiently appears from their having found a beaten wagon road leading out of the Swellendam District to the residence of the Kafirs ; and this all, notwithstanding that the said cattle barter has been from time to time prohibited, on pain of bodily and capital punishment, especially by the proclamation, still in force, of the 8th December 1739.

It is, therefore, in order, as far as possible, to provide against this evil, and if possible at once to eradicate the same, deemed most advisable, and consequently resolved—

That henceforth no more cattle farms shall be granted on loan beyond Gamtoos River, wherefore the Landdrost of Swellendam, on finding that any one may have there settled himself, shall cause such person to be forthwith removed thence : And further, that the Landdrosts of both Districts, in particular of Swellendam, in which District the said irregularities have, as above stated, been found to be more especially prevalent, shall watch with the utmost vigilance, that no one whomsoever shall depasture his cattle elsewhere than on his own loan farm or farms, much less wander with them hither and thither ; or on any other pretext, proceed from his place of residence far into the interior ; and upon detection of any person so acting, all the cattle kept in the said prohibited manner shall be forthwith confiscated for behoof of the Company.

On pain, likewise, that in case they, the Landdrosts, shall have shown any the slightest connivance, in one way or other, or that, having learnt that any barter of cattle, how trifling soever, has been by any one carried on with the Hottentots or Kafirs, they do not prosecute the offenders according to law, in the most rigorous manner, they shall, *de facto*, cease to hold such their office, and as faithless servants, forgetful of their honor and their oaths, be declared incapable of ever

again serving the Company ; and it is lastly resolved, that—amplified by the orders now framed—the proclamation of 8th December 1739 shall be again renewed.

In the Castle the Good Hope, day and year aforesaid.

R. TULBAGH,
J. v. PLETTENBERG,
(And eight others.)

1770. APRIL 26. Proclamation—**RYK TULBAGH**, Councillor Ordinary of Netherlands India, and Governor of Cape the Good Hope, with its Dependencies, makes known,

That it has appeared to us, from the Report rendered by the respective Landdrosts and Heemraden, who were recently commissioned to regulate the boundaries betwixt both the Districts of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, and that of Swellendam, among other matters, to our especial offence, that divers persons were met by said Commission, during their journey from the Fish to the Gamtoos River, who were there grazing considerable herds of cattle, according to their own pleasure, and without possessing thereabouts a farm or farms, on loan from the hon. Company ; as also that others did not scruple to wander about with their cattle, hither and thither, whole days' journeys from their loan farms, which avaricious proceeding not only tends to the palpable prejudice of the revenue of the Company, in the rents derived from loan farms,—but over and above, as it may be almost indubitably concluded, is chiefly practised in order thus to afford the better opportunity of carrying on an illicit traffic in the barter of cattle, whether it be with the Hottentots residing thereabouts or even with the so-named Kafirs, as—besides other appearances presented to the Commission—a sufficiently beaten wagon road was found, leading out of the District of Swellendam to the residence of the Kafirs, and all this notwithstanding that the said cattle barter has been from time to time prohibited, on pain of corporal and capital punishment, and especially by the Proclamation of 8th December 1739.

We therefore, in order as far as possible to provide against this evil, and if possible at once to strike at its root, have deemed it necessary, and accordingly resolved, by these presents, to order and direct,

That henceforward no one shall be at liberty to settle beyond the Gamtoos River ; wherefore the Landdrost of Swellendam shall forthwith cause to be dislodged such persons as may have attempted the same, contrary to this our order.

That furthermore the Landdrosts of both districts, to wit as well of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, as of Swellendam, shall watch with the utmost vigilance, that no one whomsoever shall depasture his cattle elsewhere than upon the loan farm or farms in his possession, still less wander about with the same : or, on any pretext whatsoever, quit his place of residence, to proceed far into the interior, upon pain, upon discovery, of the immediate forfeiture, for the behoof of the Honorable Company, of all cattle kept in the unauthorised manner aforesaid, on pain further, of our highest displeasure, in case they, the Landdrosts, show any, the least, connivance in this respect.

Furthermore all and every of these inhabitants whomsoever are—by renovation of the said Proclamation of date 8th Dec. 1739 by us enacted—expressly forbidden and interdicted, by these presents, that no one shall henceforth presume any longer to prosecute any the least cattle barter with the Hottentots or Kafirs, however trifling in amount the same may be, nor to proceed in person for that purpose, with wagons and merchandise into the interior, neither to employ any other person, on pain, if detected after this date, even although they may have bartered the cattle in friendship, and without violence, but so much the more when trouble may have been caused to the said Hottentots or Kafirs, besides the confiscation of their own property taken with them, as also of the cattle bartered, wagons and merchandise, shall, as disturbers of the public peace, and violators of Law and Liberty, without any connivance, be arbitrarily punished upon the body, aye, even with Death ; for which purpose, and in order that the contraveners in these respects may thus be the better detected, we expressly qualify and direct all overseers of the Company's Outposts, that whenever they shall learn that any one has incurred guilt herein, they shall, as far as lies in their power, inquire into the same, and bring to our knowledge the result of said inquiries ; and, further, that they shall detain all such persons as may come near their Posts, and of whom

they can apprehend that they may be of intention, either in person, or with wagons and goods to go out to barter cattle, and to deliver them into the hands of justice, in order, as aforesaid, that they may, according to circumstances, be punished on the body, aye—even with Death. Directing further the independent Fiscal, and the respective Landdrosts of this Government, to inform themselves of the transgressors against these regulations, and to proceed against the same without connivance or dissimulation, according to law.

And that no one may be enabled to pretend ignorance of this, we order and desire that this shall not only be published at the usual place, here in the Castle, but also in the Districts of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, and Swellendam, and every where affixed, as we have found the same to be for the service of the Company, and the welfare of this Government.

(L.S.)

By order of the Honorable the Governor and Council.

Thus done, appointed, and renewed, in the Castle the Good Hope, 13th February 1770, and published the 26th April following.

R. TULBAGH.

1770. MAY 22. Extract of a letter from the Landdrost of Swellendam to Governor TULBAGH, &c.

HONORABLE SIR,—

The burgher Petrus du Buisson, of the District of Stellenbosch, who stands indebted for four years' arrears of rent, upon a farm taken by him from the Company, in loan, and named Sand Fonteyn, situate beyond the Bushmans Rivier, having been recently devoured by wild animals, in the Nieuweveld, the said place remains in his name, &c. &c. And said Buisson, as far as is known, has left no property sufficient to pay the arrears.

(Signed)

F. MENTZ.

1770. JUNE 5. Extract of a letter from Governor TULBAGH to the Landdrost of Swellendam.

GOOD FRIEND,—

With respect to the grazing farm at Sand Fontein, beyond the Bosjesman River, (which the late farmer Petrus du Buisson, Js., held in loan from the Company) referred to in your letter of the 22d of May last, there was produced to me, a considerable time back, a written declaration, emitted by his mother, the widow Jan du Buisson, according to which, P. du Buisson had merely depastured the place for a few months; I have, therefore, upon the application of the farmer J. P. du Preez, again granted the same, in loan (¹), to him, you will accordingly inquire whether the written statement of the widow du Buisson is agreeable to the truth, giving me due intimation of the result

In the Castle the Good Hope, 5th June 1770.

1770. JULY 4. Copy of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to Governor TULBAGH.

HONORABLE SIR,—

Having received information from Adriaan van Jarsveld, the field corporal beyond Salt River, behind the Coup, by letter of the 17th April (²) *hujus anni*, that, as the Hottentots, residing thereabouts, had robbed the farmer Casper Schols of thirty-four cattle, he, Van Jarsveld, thereupon went out with a commando, when, those Hottentots being overtaken, they had come to a fight with

(¹) For one of the modes of procuring sanction to the occupation of lands eastward of Gamtoos River, notwithstanding the recent Proclamation, see Sparman's Account, in 1775, of the farm of G. Schepers—the present site of Uitenhage—and Landdrost Bresler's Report on the same farm, January 19, 1798.

(²) The original report has not as yet been found at Stellenbosch.

them, in which rencontre they shot six of that tribe, and recaptured—though slaughtered—all the plundered cattle—the remaining Hottentots being found lying near the cattle of another farmer, David van Heerden, they were there taken prisoners, excepting two, who, as they would not surrender, were then shot. I have thus the honor to report this event ⁽¹⁾ to your Excellency; as also, that on the 2d instant, there was brought to the prison here, a certain Hottentot named Jantje, belonging to the wagon of the farmer Schoester, who, when drunk, beat his brother to death, near the height of Simon's valley; and having then himself made report of the circumstance, and as, upon search, the *corpus delicti* was there found, he is now sent in custody to the Cape, and I respectfully request that he may therefore be confined by the public gaoler.

Stellenbosch, 4th July 1770.

L. S. FABER.

1770. Nov. 6. Copy of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to Governor TULBAGH.

HONORABLE SIR,—

As the burgher Frans Willem Timmerman, stationed as servant of the Heemraad Jan Bernard Hoffman, upon his farm beyond the mountains, when travelling with two wagons, from the resting-place below Hottentots' Holland, to the residence of said Hoffman, struck a slave of said Hoffman, named Fortuyn of Timor, accidentally (as he pretends) upon the head, with the butt-end of a whip stick, in such manner that the slave soon after died; I have, therefore, the honor, as in duty bound, thus to report the same to your Excellency; as also, that according to communications ⁽²⁾ received from the field corporals stationed beyond Salt River, behind the Coup, in the Bokkeveld, beyond the Doorn River, in the Nieuweveld, behind the Roggevelds Berg, and behind the Roggeveld beyond the Salt River,—the Bosjesmans Hottentots have again carried off some herds of cattle, aye—even killed with arrows, in said Nieuweveld, a slave of the farmer Barend Lubbe, who was attending the sheep, as also murdered another shepherd, a Hottentot, of the farmer Cornelis van Wyk, when attending the flock; while, at the same time, behind the Roggeveld, beyond Salt River, a hundred sheep of the farmer Willem van Zyl, being carried off by that tribe, and the herd also killed; the field corporals went on commando against those Hottentots—shot some of them, and recovered a portion of the stock.

L. S. FABER.

1771. Feb. 15. Copy of a Letter from Cape Government to the Landdrost of Swellendam.

GOOD FRIEND,—

As the following complaints have been this day preferred to me—

1. By the Hottentot Bastiaan, that ten cattle and a number of sheep had been taken away from him by one Joseph Vrey.
2. By the Hottentot Daniel, that he also had been deprived of some sheep, by Willem Nel, jr.
3. By the Hottentot Titus, that the farmer Pieter Nel withholds from him the wages due to him for ten years;—

I have, therefore, to direct you, with respect to said complaints, not only to make minute inquiry, but also, in particular, should they be found to be true, to take care that the cattle, taken from the two first-named, be forthwith restored, and that the wages due to the last-named, be *de facto* paid.

There have also been with me, for some time back, divers persons, residing in your District, requesting permission to fetch Salt, for their own consumption, out of the countries where it has been thought proper no longer to allow any one to settle; and as it has escaped me, whether, when you were here, I spoke with you upon the subject, you will be pleased speedily to inform me

(1) The Reports of July 4 and November 6 are entered at full in the journal kept in the Colonial Office for the year 1770, which volume contains no other notices relative to the subject. No rescript to those Reports has been found in the volume of "Letters Despatched."

(2) None of the Communications referred to have been found.

whether there are not to be found elsewhere, on this side, any other places whence the inhabitants can conveniently procure their necessary supplies of salt; and whether the same must, as a matter of necessity, be fetched from the said distant Districts,—and how this matter stands in other respects.

In the Castle the Good Hope,
15th Feb. 1771.

By order, &c.

O. M. BERGH,
Member of Council and Secretary.

1771. MARCH 25. Extract of a letter from the Landdrost of Swellendam to Governor TULBAGH.

Your Excellency's highly respected letter, of the 15th February last, having been delivered to me on the 19th instant, by the Hottentot Cornelis, I have respectfully to state, in reply, that the inhabitants of this District, who reside on this side of the chain of mountains, and also in part those residing behind the Platte Kloof, and further inland in that direction, are almost always supplied with Salt from two Salt Valleys or Pans situated, one on the further side of Palmiet River, and the second, at Soetendaal's Valley, excepting during long-continued dry seasons, when the salt must be elsewhere purchased and conveyed hither; but as, since this District has become populous and extended, some of those who have their places of abode in Lange Kloof, upon the Oliphants River and Gamtoos River, have gone to fetch salt from Swartkops River; but when the report became current, that under the pretence of fetching salt—such journeys being also called *togts*—some trade was carried on with the natives, your Excellency was pleased, in order to remove every thing that could afford a pretext for that trade, to forbid any one from being permitted to fetch salt from the place above-mentioned.

Meanwhile your Excellency was graciously pleased to instruct me,—in the event of the same becoming matter of complaint before the Board of Heemraeden here,—that the said Board might take the liberty of humbly submitting such complaint, by way of petition;—but no such complaint having been preferred, I beg leave, in all submission, to remark on the subject,—that it certainly falls hard upon the said more distant farmers to be obliged to carry home with them, from this quarter or elsewhere, the salt which is so necessary to their subsistence, particularly upon those who possess but one wagon, in which they must find room for it, independently of their butter, casks, and wife and children, who usually accompany them to the Cape; thus they may easily be induced to fetch their salt privately from said place, for which those who reside the furthest off have the best opportunity, and, as there is no general thoroughfare in that direction, are not easily to be detected; or, being detected, would immediately plead as an excuse, that they had been compelled to it by want, poverty, and the like;—this continuing, or supposing that the practice remains concealed, it is much to be apprehended, that the habit of travelling thither secretly would become confirmed, until, at length, they might resort to further transgressions: on the other hand, in my humble opinion, that evil would not be so much to be feared if the fetching salt from Swartkops River were permitted, as in that case, the road thither will be rarely unfrequented, and thus the one being afraid of the other, no illicit trade could well be carried on by any one, unless all were alike, and equally disposed to prosecute that unauthorised traffic—which, however, (viewing the matter on the most favorable side) is not to be expected; should it, however, happen, it could not remain concealed; the question may now be disposed of as your Excellency shall be pleased to direct.

With regard to the complaints made by the Hottentots against some farmers, the same have not as yet been inquired into, in consequence of the distance of the abode of said farmers. I shall, therefore, respectfully take the liberty of hereafter informing your Excellency how it is as to these complaints. (¹)

Swellendam, 25th March 1771.

J. F. MENTZ.

1771. MAY 3. Extract of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to Governor TULBAGH.

. . . . And as the field corporal Adriaan van Jarsveld, beyond Soute River, behind the Coup, has made known by letter (²) that the Hottentots residing thereabouts had become so bold, that they had, on several farms, surrounded the dwellings by night, and tried to break into them,

(¹) The result of the promised inquiry has not been ascertained.

(²) Not found.

without, however, having succeeded; accordingly, after they had murdered three of the people of Jacob Joubert, shot the outside of his (Joubert's) house full of arrows, and stolen from him 900 sheep, he, Van Jarsveld,—as the inhabitants, to preserve their lives and their stock, had been forced to fly thence,—traced up these Hottentots with a commando of thirty men, and then gave battle, when ninety-two of that tribe were killed; which I have accordingly the honor to report, &c. (1)

Stellenbosch, 5th May 1771.

L. S. FABER.

1771. OCT. 18. Extract of a Despatch from the Chamber XVII. to Government and Council, Cape of Good Hope.

• . . . We are, however, always disposed to give proofs of the satisfaction which we continually derive from the management of the affairs of your government; above all, in the direction of the Governor Ryk Tulbagh; and it is from this consideration, and on account of the peculiar reasons which militate in favor of the junior merchants Westarhoff and Henning, that we have granted to both those persons the title and rank of merchant . . .

We have further considered what we might receive in return by that ship and packet; and as the Cape wheat, rye, barley, and also the wool, wine, brandy, hides, and tallow have first presented themselves to notice, we should not deem it inexpedient to send us a small quantity of the seven last articles, as a trial, and to make up the residue of the cargoes of that ship and packet with wheat; under the express condition, however, that the wheat be procured at reasonable prices, (2) and that you have a sufficient quantity on hand to enable you to comply with our requisition, after deducting what must be reserved for the consumption of India, and for the necessary provision for your own government. We have authorised the Chamber of Amsterdam to demand of you such quantity of the said articles of produce, as that Chamber shall deem proper, with limitation of the price, which at the utmost must be expended for said grain and other produce, holding ourselves assured that you will co-operate, to the best of your power, in purchasing those goods of the best quality and at the lowest prices, in order that we may thus be encouraged, for the benefit of the Cape Colony, to continue and extend a branch of commerce, of which we, indeed, in former years, more than once made trial, but which we were obliged to discontinue, partly because the quality of some of the articles did not answer our expectation, and partly because others were invoiced at such high prices, as to afford no profit upon being brought to sale here.

1772. JAN. 7. Extract of Records of Landdrost and Heemraeden of Swellendam.

It was further thought proper to give the field corporals instructions, in writing, to keep a good watch upon those Hottentots wandering about in their respective wards, who are neither hired by any of the inhabitants, nor belong to one of the Hottentot kraals, in order, as much as possible, to prevent any injury being suffered by any of these inhabitants, through such wanderers.

J. F. MENTZ.

1772. JAN. 31. Copy of a letter from the Acting Governor PLETENBERG, to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

GOOD FRIEND,

Two farms, named the *Ezels Fonteyn* and the *Lely Fonteyn*, both situate on the *Camies Berg*, were granted by me in loan, on the 5th October last year, to the farmer Hermanus Engelbrecht; I

(1) This is the only report on the subject which appears to have been transcribed into the Journal for the year 1771. No orders appear to have been issued by Government upon receipt of this report.

(2) For the policy of the Company in this respect, and its alleged effect upon the extension of the Colony, see Instructions of R. van Goens, 1657, Conditions with Emigrants, 1685, Correspondence, 1720 and 1730, Memorial of Colonists, 17th July 1784, and Report of Cape Government thereon, 1786.

have been subsequently informed that the use of one of those places was allowed, by the late Governor Tulbagh, to the farmer Dirk Coetzee, and that the Hottentot Captain Wildschut has lain with his kraal upon the other.

I have, therefore, thought fit to revoke the grant of those two loan farms, of which you thus receive the necessary intimation, with directions not only to take care that they are forthwith vacated by Engelbrecht, but also that the said Coetzee, as well as the Hottentot Captain Wildschut, with his kraal, continue respectively to enjoy the undisturbed use of those farms.

In the Castle the Good Hope,
31st January 1772.

By order, &c

O. M. BERCH.

1772. APRIL 10. Extract of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to the Acting Governor VAN PLETTERENBERG.

I have further to report that, according to information received from Jacob de Klerk (¹), field corporal in the Nieuwenveld, behind the Roggevelds Berg, the Bosjesmans have carried off from the inhabitants of that quarter the undermentioned cattle, namely:—From said De Klerk, 14 cattle; Jan van Aswegen, 17; Jacobus Louw, 8; Arie van Wyk, 5; Pieter Jourdan, 4; Pieter Harmse, 22; Christoffel Smit, 10; Myndert Classen, 10; Johannes van Aarden, 9, and 119 sheep: also from Hendrik van Aswegen, 3 cattle and 400 sheep;—upon which he (De Klerk) overtook the body of the robbers, and shot fifty-one of them, without, however, having recovered any of the stolen cattle. (²)

Stellenbosch, 10th April 1772.

L. S. FABER.

1772. MAY 23. Copy of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to Acting Governor VAN PLETTERENBERG.

HONORABLE SIR,

According to information received from Willem van Wyk, field corporal in the further Roggeveld, I have respectfully to report, that the Hottentots in hire upon the farm of Adriaan Louw, to the number of nine, have deserted with four guns, and have shot the burgher Johan Hendrick Teutman, together with his wife and daughter, and have also taken with them, from that farm, two guns, with powder and lead,—the fugitives, whose number daily increases, and who are now provided with six guns, having also carried off and dragged with them 515 sheep, and their herds—a slave boy and a Hottentot; and as the field corporal further requests some hand grenades, with a person who knows how to manage them—to light, as also to throw them—as he has, with a commando, enclosed those Hottentots in a cavern in the rocks, and perceives no means of getting the better of them in any other manner, as they have blockaded the way by which they must be approached, with a stone fence, and thus safely fire with their guns upon the men; and (from private reports) have also the plundered cattle there with them. The undersigned has therefore the honor to submit that application to your Excellency; and as the undersigned has understood that the farmer Willem Hattingh, residing in the Roggeveld, leaves this place with his wagon to-morrow, for Cape Town, the undersigned thinks that a good opportunity—should your Excellency be pleased to accede to the request—to send the required assistance by Hattingh: it were to be wished that it may be of good effect, in order thus to smother in its birth, this murderous and rapacious band, and to stop them from the commission of further excesses, for otherwise the greatest mischiefs are to be apprehended, should the said Hottentots, united with the Bosjesmans, fall upon the inhabitants of that quarter, of whom three have already abandoned their farms.

Stellenbosch, 23d May 1772.

L. S. FABER.

(¹) No original Report of De Klerk yet found.

(²) No mention of this Report, or—excepting the case of Teutman—of any other Report on the subject of the Natives, appears in the Colonial Office Journal for 1772.

1772. MAY 25. Copy of a letter from the Cape Government to Corporal WILLEM VAN WYK.

GOOD FRIEND,

Whereas report has been made to me by the Landdrost of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, Mr. Lucas Sigismundus Faber, that the Hottentots who resided upon the grazing farm of Adriaan Louw, and who have been guilty of murder and robbery, having been overtaken by you with a commando, are now kept enclosed, but cannot be driven out of their hiding-place, except by means of hand grenades, I have therefore thought fit to send to you, by the wagon of the farmer Andries Hattingh, the corporal Hendrick Buse, with five other grenadiers, from the garrison here, duly provided with hand grenades, in order to assist you in attacking and getting the better of the said murderous gang; and, as it appears to me, from the report of the Landdrost above-named, that the place where the said robbers are now lodged is somewhat inaccessible, I therefore direct you positively, that whenever the said Hottentots must be attacked with hand grenades, you shall assist the said Corporal Buse, with word and deed, in the most circumspect manner, so that the attack upon the robbers may take place with the prospect of a fortunate result, and without exposing the said soldiers in situations where they, without being able to injure their enemy, may themselves be in danger.

In the Castle the Good Hope,

By order, &c.

25th May 1772.

O. M. BERGH.

1772. JUNE 20. Extract of a Despatch from the Governor and Council to the Chamber XVII.

But as, from the indifferent issue of the last harvest, the price of grain has gradually risen in proportion, so that previous to the receipt of your respected despatch, (¹) the inhabitants themselves paid for the load of ten muids of wheat Rds. 33; 4 guilders per muid for barley, and rye in proportion; and that the wine, partly from the reduced demand during the former year, and partly from the great consumption of that article by foreign vessels, has so risen in price, that the ordinary white wine now stands at 60 Rds. per *legger*,—we have, therefore, been obliged, for this time, to contract for those articles at the following rates:—

Dutch money, according to the discount of 66 st. per ducaton.

For the Wheat per muid	.	.	.	.	6	8	—	5	17	$\frac{1}{2}$
„ Rye „	.	.	.	.	5	12	—	5	2	$\frac{2}{3}$
„ Barley „	.	.	.	.	3	4	—	2	18	$\frac{2}{3}$
„ Wine, white stein,	.	.	.	.	96	0	—	88		
„ „ red,	.	.	.	.	192	0	—	176		
„ Tallow	.	.	.	.	12	0	—	11		

But as the present dearness of these articles is caused by the unusual circumstances mentioned, we are pretty well assured that in future, upon more favorable harvests, the wheat, as well as the rye and barley, and also the wine, may be bought in, not only for the price specified in the demand, but even at a lower rate.

As now the welfare of this Colony principally depends upon the inhabitants being able to find an opportunity, on the occasion of a good crop and vintage, of disposing of their produce by exportation, and as your Honors have been kindly pleased to afford to them, in the arrangements which have been adopted, the most solid proofs of your continued kindness to a Colony which you have planted with so much care, and which you still encourage, we deem it our duty, in the name of the inhabitants in general, who are impressed with the deepest feelings of gratitude for this act of unmerited kindness, to offer our most respectful thanks, together with a humble assurance that we shall never be backward in contributing every thing in our power whereby this favorable disposition may not merely be continued, but that your Honors may be encouraged to extend still further a branch of commerce upon which the prosperity of this Colony mainly depends; trusting, at the

(¹) See Oct. 18th, 1771, page 10.

same time, that as, from the causes above stated, we could not, on this occasion, succeed to our wish, that you will be pleased to approve of our proceedings.

And as the purchase of Slaves at Madagascar, on account of this Government, may, indeed, as before stated, be postponed until next year, but must necessarily then take its course, in order to carry on properly the work that must be performed by those men,—we therefore take the liberty to request that the bearer of this, the hoeker de Zon, with the present Captain Andries Hanssen, and his present officers, may be speedily sent back to us for that purpose.

Having apprised your Honors, by our letters of 19th December 1770, and 1st March 1771, that the hoeker Snelhied had returned to this roadstead, after having encountered many misfortunes, and without having been able to put into Rio de la Goa, the place of her destination, we have now to state, that it was not the least of those misfortunes that that vessel was obliged to return, leaving behind two officers, a quarter-master, and eleven sailors, who had been sent to examine the coast near said Bay of Rio de la Goa,—both officers, together with two of the sailors, have, however, been recovered: after much suffering and danger they reached, first, Inhabany, and successively Mozambique, Diu Souratta, and, at length, Ceylon: from which last place they have been brought hither, by the return ship Borssellen, as your Honors will see more fully detailed in their narrative, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, and to which we respectfully refer

In the Castle the Good Hope, 20th June 1772.

1772. JUNE 26. Copy of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to the Cape Government.

HONORABLE SIR,

Pieter Jacobs, field corporal, beyond the Hex River, having taken with him to the Roggeveld the Hottentot Captains Kees and Boekebaas (1) who were lying there, together with the people of their kraals, in order to assist in the apprehension of the gang of Hottentots who had murdered the burgher Johan Hendrik Teutman,—the said Kees and Boekebaas, after six had been shot by them and one had escaped, succeeded in securing them, together with their wives and children, and the stolen cattle;—the undersigned has accordingly the honor to send the said gang, to the number of fifty-eight, great and small, to the Cape, under charge of a commando,—one of these murderers, and two others, women, having died on the road. With respect, now, to the said Hottentots, the undersigned must further report, that only one of them, named Kleynbooy, was present at the murder of Teutman, and himself shot that man; while two others, named Jantje and Dirk, about fifteen days after the commission of the said murder, in company with the Hottentots Fix, Claas, Piet, and another, also called Jantje, early upon a certain morning, seized and held the shepherd of the widow Adriaan Louw, while Fix and Jantje stabbed him with an assagay, and then cut his throat; having (according to their statement) committed that act because a bastard, named Thys (also residing with Louw, and who is also sent to the Cape) had stated, that he (having brought a letter from the Cape) was ordered to murder all the Roggeveld Hottentots, and the other Hottentots had fled to that cave out of alarm,—which rumour, as to the supposed order from the Cape, the prisoner Jantje Links states that he also heard in the presence of Cornelis van Wyk, from a servant of Ary de Lange, a Roggeveld farmer, named Faber.

And whereas, according to information received, another gang of Hottentots, in the Hantam, came by night upon the farm of Christian Bock, with the intention of shooting him, while in bed, and had already set fire to the house, without, however, having succeeded, as he ran and seized his gun, on which they took to flight:—the undersigned begs also to report this occurrence.

Should that gang, who are also pursued by a commando, be also taken, I shall not fail to make the due report; and as the undersigned still requires some further evidence as to the propagation of the rumour before adverted to, and as upon the other hand I am engaged here with the Cession of the Board for the receipt of sheep and cattle money, it may be fourteen days before I can proceed to make further inquiry into the matter. (2)

L. S. FABER.

(1) For further particulars see Mr. W. Harding's Series of Criminal Convictions.

(2) This Report, and the substance of the letters of 28th and 29th June, is detailed in the same terms in the Colonial Office Journal, May 27 and June 29.

1772. JUNE 28. Copy of a letter from the Cape Government to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

GOOD FRIEND,

The apprehended Hottentots, mentioned in your letter of the day before yesterday, having, together with their wives and children, been brought hither, those who were put in irons were forthwith sent to gaol, and the women and children disposed of elsewhere, as well as possible, but as we are in no small degree embarrassed with these last, you will instantly inform me, in reply to this, which, and how many, of said Hottentots, whether male or female, must be imprisoned as guilty, or detained at this place as witnesses, in order that the rest, who otherwise would cause too great expense to the Company, may be, the sooner the better, got rid of, by dividing them, that is to say, the women and children, among such of the inhabitants as will take any of them into service, for their food.

In the Castle the Good Hope,
28th June 1772.

By order, &c.

O. M. BERGH.

1772. JUNE 29. Copy of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to the Cape Government.

In compliance with the respected order conveyed by your Excellency's letter of yesterday, I have to state that the ironed Hottentots should all be detained in prison, as I have been unable to procure any minute information in how far the residue, who may not indeed be guilty of the murder, are guilty of aiding or abetting; as to the women, no charge has hitherto been made against them. I therefore conceive that they merely followed their husbands, without having implicated themselves in the guilt of the murder: had I, therefore, been aware that it would not have pleased your Excellency to employ them, *ad opus publicum*, I should have, in the first instance, *propria auctoritate*, placed them, for their food, with one or other of the inhabitants. Now, however, that I am fully informed of your Excellency's pleasure, two police riders and one Caffer are sent herewith, in order, with your Excellency's approval, to convey them back hither, as I have divided them among the inhabitants, as well in the village as in the vicinity; and as the Hottentots cannot perform the march to this place in one day, I beg that your Excellency may be pleased to allow them to be victualled for two days.

Stellenbosch, 29th June 1772.

L. S. FABER.

1772. AUG. 28. Copy of a letter from the Cape Government to Landdrost of Swellendam.

GOOD FRIEND,

The Doctor of Medicine and Botanist, Carel Pieter Thunberg, who has arrived here from Europe, has been this day sent by me into the interior to seek and collect herbs, plants, insects, &c., accompanied by the gardener Johan Andries Auge, and a person named Christiaan Hector Leonhardy; you are, therefore, directed, in the event of their requiring any assistance towards the execution and fulfilment of this commission, to assist them to the utmost of your means; you will, in particular, furnish them, on account of the Company, with the necessary draught oxen, and one or two Hottentots.

In the Castle the Good Hope,
28th August 1772.

By order, &c.

O. M. BERGH.

1772. OCT. 9. Extract of a letter from the Cape Government to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

GOOD FRIEND,

The farmer Willem Prinslo, upon the 10th June last year, obtained permission, from the late Governor Tulbagh, to select, in the Nieuweveld, two grazing farms, in order thereupon to take them upon loan tenure;—now, I have been informed that said Prinslo has settled beyond De

Bruyns Hoogte, and whereas such is repugnant to our resolution of 13th February 1770—providing that the farms still to be granted in said Nieuweveld should be restricted to within Bruyns Hoogte, —You will therefore inform yourself exactly as to the position of the said farm or farms of Willem Prinslo; and upon ascertaining that they are established beyond Bruyns Hoogte, you will, in that case, direct him to decamp, and to return with his cattle to within Bruyns Hoogte; you will also strictly inquire whether any other persons have settled beyond the said limited district, who, in such case, must also forthwith abandon such farms.

In the Castle the Good Hope,
9th October 1772.

By order, &c.

O. M. BERGH.

1772. OCT. 10. Extract of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to the Cape Government.

. . . . In due reply to your Excellency's highly respected letter of the 9th instant, the undersigned will forthwith make minute inquiry as to the two farms which Willem Prinslo is said to have taken beyond de Bruyns Hoogte, and transmit to your Excellency the usual report (1)

1772. OCT. 14. Extract of a Despatch from the Chamber XVII. to the Cape Government.

In answer to your letters of last year, we have, in the first place, generally to express our satisfaction with your proceedings, and the arrangement and dispatch of the Company's ships, as well outward as homeward bound, that have touched at the Cape during the year 1771. . . .

The disposition, however, which you have made for the temporary performance of the duties of Fiscal, we cannot approve, as it is altogether improper that any one who is appointed provisionally President of the Court of Justice should continue, notwithstanding, invested with the office of Fiscal, thus being obliged, upon the occurrence of cases affecting the Fiscal's office, to vacate the chair of President in order to officiate as Fiscal before the same Court; We have, therefore, thought proper, once for all, to provide, that whenever upon a vacancy occurring in the office of second in command, that post must be provisionally filled by the Fiscal; the office of Fiscal shall, meanwhile, be entrusted to such other person as the Governor and Council shall deem to possess the requisite qualifications. . . .

By the safe arrival of the hoeker de Zon we have received the grain and other Cape produce, with which that vessel was laden, and which have been found to be of very good quality; the grain has been already sold, and has realised a very good profit, as you will perceive by the accompanying price current. . . .

Our intention accordingly is, that these ships be sent back hither direct, laden with such produce as may be demanded in return by the Chambers of Amsterdam and Zealand, upon the footing and under the limitations specified in our letters of the 18th October 1771 and 23d April of this year. . . .

In Amsterdam, 14th October 1772.

1772. OCT. 19. Extract of a letter from the Landdrost of Swellendam to Acting Governor VAN PLETTENBERG.

. . . . I shall, moreover, deem it a high honor dutifully to obey your respected order of the 28th of August, which has been this moment delivered to me by Doctor Thunberg. (2)

(1) The promised Report has not been found,—see, however, Nov. 10, 1774; Jan. 30, 1775; March 13, and Sept. 17, 1780.

(2) See Thunberg's Travels from this date.

General Summary of Population, Stock, Produce, Revenue, and Expenditure for the years from 1769 to 1773 inclusive ;—extracted from the Annual Reports of the Cape Government ; as also of the number of Criminal Convictions and Executions in each class of the inhabitants during the same years.

	1769	1770	1771	1772	1773	Total Convictions in the 5 years.	Executions, capital.
Company's Servants,—Civil, Military, and Commercial.	1356	1401	1361	1325	1490 ⁽¹⁾	7	0
Sick in Hospital.	399	303	439	638	675 ⁽²⁾		
Company's Live Stock,	3231	3129	3133	2719	2958		
Cattle.	307	342	354	369	336		
Horses.	2147	2136	2218	2283	2300	1	0
Colonists,	1486	1517	1538	1576	1578		
Men.	2184	2256	2333	2263	2318		
Women.	2132	2179	2212	2251	2269		
Male European Servants	78	89	77	87	89		
Slaves, adult male	5650	5660	5631	5971	7102	13	10
,, female	1537	1569	1634	1676	1707		
,, boys	548	510	533	550	564		
,, girls	369	418	537	518	529		
Horses	7427	7883	8188	8514	9061		
Cattle	38012	38357	37977	38665	39019		
Sheep	244558	258250	264943	271002	285094		
Wine (leggers)	4624 $\frac{1}{2}$	3976	3784	1984 $\frac{1}{2}$	5332		
Wheat (muids)	12953	14276	14244	17480	24775		
Revenue	f166673	151399	157556	163648	171637		
Expenditure	450524	464775	452010	475228	510902 ⁽³⁾		

N.B. No census taken of Native Population, of whom and of other free colored persons twenty-two were convicted and eight capitally punished during the same period. The condensed details of the Convictions and Sentence will appear in the course of these papers, in periods of ten years, from Mr. Walter Harding's " Descriptive Abstract of Convictions, 1652 to 1837."

(¹) The details of the distribution and employment of the Company's Servants have no reference to the Native Tribes during this period.

(²) The sick consisted chiefly of scorbutic recruits or seamen : the number of deaths from scurvy, between Holland and the Cape, much exceeded, during this period, that of the sick left there ; in 1771, twelve ships lost, on the passage, 1034 men, or nearly half their crews.

(³) The following is the detail of the expenditure of 1773 :—Expenses of shipping, f184,488 ; ordinary rations, f78,878 ; ordinary expenses, f30,902 ; extraordinary expenses, f3,866 ; buildings and repairs, f17,733 ; fortifications, f1,155 ; expense of Company's slaves, f18,909 ; condemnation and confiscation, f4,575 ; expenses of boats, f9,615 ; pay of shipping, f14,169 ; salaries on shore, f140,197.

The explanations attached to each branch of expenditure make no reference to any expense incurred for operations, offensive or defensive, against the Natives. In subsequent years such expenses appear under the head of Extraordinaries,—the Extraordinaries for the above five years are successively—3355—3427—3373—4799 and 3866 guilders. The expense of the Journey of the Landdrosts in 1770 is noticed under this head.

The same observation applies as to the particulars of the Colonial Revenues ;—in 1773, of a total income of 171637 guilders, 7775 were derived from the licensed retail of wine, brandy, and beer, of which sum only a small portion was drawn from the interior of the Colony. The following are the details of this source of Revenue. At Cape Town :—Sale of wine, f29,600 ; brandy, f32,000 ; beer, f5,400 ; impost on spirits sold to foreigners f9,300 : sale of Cape wine at Rondebosch and False Bay, f3,300 ; of wine and brandy at Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, f900.

Where Financial Explanations, or those regarding the Distribution of the Garrison, are found to relate to the Natives, they will be given at full.

1772. OCT. 20. Copy of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to the Cape Government.

HONORABLE SIR,

The undersigned having got into custody the Hottentot Claas, who formerly lived with Christiaan Bock, upon his farm situated in the Hantam, and who belonged to the gang of Hottentots who attempted to destroy that farm,—aye, who even shot arrows at the said Bock, of which circumstance I had the honor to make report on the 26th June last; he is sent to the Cape under the charge of the bearer, with request that he may be imprisoned by the public gaoler; and whereas, according to information received from Gerrit van Wyk, field corporal of the further Roggeveld, the Bosjesmen have stolen from him, Van Wyk, eighty-eight cattle, of which he retook thirty-nine, and on that occasion, with a commando which went out thereupon, shot thirty-one Bosjesmans. I have therefore the honor to report the same to your Excellency.

Stellenbosch, 20th Oct.

L. S. FABER.

1772. OCT. 28. Extract of a letter from the Landdrost of Swellendam to the Cape Government.

Several farmers having recently come to make known, that farms are granted in loan at Swartkops River, and that Stephanus Jos. Bekker has already received the loan-title to three farms there, as said Bekker acknowledges by a letter,—without, however, having produced his title,—as the said persons had already, in former days, petitioned to be permitted to occupy farms there, but without success, they have requested that it may please your Excellency that they may enjoy the same right, and the preference.

Swellendam, 28th Oct. 1772.

F. J. MENTZ.

1772. DEC. 31. Extract of the Journal, Colonial Office.

Meanwhile the Court of Justice was assembled, in which the Hottentots Kleyne Booy, Kleyne Jantje (alias Kleyne Jantje Links) Kleyne Dirk, Cupido, Spanger, Springveld, Jantje van Tuytman (alias Jantje Roebok) old Jantje Links, and the Bastard Hottentot Thys;—the two first-named, Kleyne Booy and Kleyne Jantje, for murder committed as well upon the burgher Jan Hendrick Tuytman, as upon the shepherd of the late burgher Adriaan Louw, and the six following (named above) as well for a previously formed resolution to fly to a cave in the mountains, as for a knowledge of the said committed murder,—and the last-named Bastard Thys, for a certain rumour by him propagated, and thereby giving inducement to the said gross excesses of the said Hottentots—(see what is noted above on this subject, under date of 25th May and 27th June);—were condemned to be brought to the place where criminal sentences are usually carried into execution here, and being there delivered over to the executioner, the first Kleyne Booy bound to a cross, and broken thereon alive, from under upwards, with the *coup de grace* ⁽¹⁾, as also the second Kleyne Jantje Links, to be punished on the gallows, with the rope, until death ensues, and thereupon their dead bodies dragged to the *Buytengeregt*, and there that of the first laid upon a wheel (*rad*), and that of the second being again hung upon the gallows, thus to remain a prey to the air and to the birds of the heavens; and, further, the remaining seven (names as above), one after the other, bound to a post and severely flogged with rods upon the bare back; then the 3d, 4th, 5th, and 6th to have the sinew of the heel cut asunder, and be banished for life to the public works, at the Honorable Company's slave lodge; but the Bastard Thys to work for ten consecutive years at the Honorable Company's public works at Robben Island, without wages, with payment of the costs and dues (*misen*) of justice; the two Hottentots, Dikkop and Frederick, were discharged from their confinement without expense or injury.

1773. MARCH 25. Extract of the Journal, Colonial Office.

Meanwhile the Court of Justice assembled, when the Hottentot Claas,—in that he, in the night time, shot a poisoned arrow at the farmer Christian Bock, then in his house, and with whom he for

(1) See Report of Court of Justice to Sir J. Craig, 1796, on Capital Punishments; see also May 23, p. 11.

some time resided, and attempted to take his life, and also because he was presumed to have set fire to the house,—was condemned to be bound to a post and severely flogged by the public executioner, with rods upon the bare back, and thereupon branded and rivetted in chains, in order therein to labor for life at the Company's public works on Robben Island, without wages. (1)

1773. APRIL 30. [An original letter of this date from A. van Jarsveld, field corporal at Sneuwberg,—see second Supplement of the printed list of papers relative to Bushmen,—has been found at Stellenbosch, and will, when a copy is obtained, be given in a foot note.]

1773. MAY 24. Extract of a letter from the Landdrost of Swellendam to Government.

I have herewith the honor to transmit the account of the Company's live stock, and also dutifully to state, that 118 bull calves have been bartered from the Hottentots residing hereabouts. (2)

1773. JUNE 16. Extracts of Records of Landdrost and Heemraad of Swellendam.

The President then submitted that hitherto no field corporal had been appointed at the Cromme River, and that such was not only useful to the inhabitants residing thereabouts, but also necessary. It was therefore resolved to appoint to that office the farmer Andries Hendrick Krugel, there resident, and that the Acting Secretary shall make out the Commission, and transmit to him, Krugel, at the same time, a list of the privates (*manschappen*) who are to belong to that command (*commando*). . . . The remainder of the month of June and the whole of July passed without any event worthy of notice, until 6th October. . . . It appeared, upon examination of the muster-rolls for the exercise, that many of the burghers doing duty, had this year absented themselves from the customary military exercise, without assigning full and sufficient cause; it was therefore resolved to summon before the next meeting, the following persons, to answer for their neglect of duty in this respect: Pieter Nortier, Cornelis Bezuidenhout, Wynand Fred. Bezuidenhout, Johs. Herm. Kiel, Soloman Peinaar, jr., Hermanus Pieterz, Willem Nel, Ps., Pieter Smittenberg, Willem Bezuidenhout, Fred. Botha, Fs., Jurgen Schoeman, Pieter Cornelis van Nieuwkerken, Hermanus Lucas Crouse, Jos. Jacobus Mostert, Js., Jacobus van Beelen, Philip Cortier, and Petrus Johannes Marx. The President was pleased, however, to excuse the three last-named, and also, upon payment of the light penalty, P. Smittenberg, J. Schoeman, and Michel Heyns. It was further resolved,—as it appears that the number of privates who attend at exercise diminishes from year to year, in order to stay and prevent this abuse, to adopt in future such measures as shall be deemed most suitable to that purpose.

(1) The Journal for 1773 contains no other notice relevant to the Natives.

(2) Extract of a letter from Landdrost MENTZ to Governor TULBACH, 22d Feb. 1769.

Among others who have failed to pay the rent due by them to the Company, upon loan farms, is the Heemraad of Stellenbosch, Jan Bernard Hoffman, as having married the widow of the late J. H. Malan, and he has represented that his predecessor Malan had, for a long time back, discontinued the occupation of his loan farm, called Bakkeleys Drift, at Breede River, and that the Hottentots had subsequently used it; he therefore requests that for the period during which the farm has not been occupied—being, as nearly as can be ascertained, about eight years—he may be discharged from payment of the arrears; which request I have the honor to submit, in order that I may be favored with your Excellency's Instructions, whether said Hoffman shall be discharged on those grounds, or again directed to pay the whole. I have also the honor to state that up to this date fifty-three Hottentots have gone from this district to Stellenbosch: and I shall, in obedience to your respected order,* send thither also, without delay, the wandering Hottentots who are still to be found.

Your Excellency will be enabled to perceive, from the returns of the Company's cattle herewith transmitted, that 258 bull calves have been bartered from the Hottentots: but as Corporal Veldman informs me that many of the burghers will not suffer the Hottentots living with them to barter their cattle to the Company, I feel it my duty humbly to submit to the consideration of your Excellency, that if the inhabitants may prevent the Hottentots living with them from bartering their cattle to the Company, the barter, in the course of time, will not yield much profit,—for as much as few or no Hottentots any longer reside in the kraals, but for the greater part with the inhabitants. . . .

Swellendam, 22d Feb. 1769.

* See 31st December 1768.

F. J. MENTZ.

1773. OCT. 20. Extracts of a Despatch from the Chamber XVII ⁽¹⁾ to Governor VAN PLETTENBERG and Council.

As we intend to take another opportunity of explaining the arrangements which will be necessary in future for the management of the affairs of the Cape Government, upon the unexpected event of a vacancy occurring, at once, in the office of Governor, and in that of *Secunde*, we shall only state here that we approve, provisionally, of the resolution you adopted in that respect, upon the decease of the Governor Tulbagh; and we cannot but avail ourselves of this occasion of testifying, in justice to the memory of that gentleman, that he directed the concerns of that government with all possible skill, attention, zeal, and fidelity, and always to our highest satisfaction

The grain and other produce received this year from your government by the ships Bartha, Petronella, and Ormderkerk, have paid very well

To supply the vacancy, in the office of Governor, which has been caused by the decease of Pieter van Rheeë van Oudshorn, his Serene Highness has been pleased to elect, out of the nomination presented by us, Mr. Joachim van Plettenberg, senior merchant and second in command. . . .

Amsterdam, 20th Oct. 1773.

1773. DEC. 20. Copy of a letter from the Cape Government to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

GOOD FRIEND,

It has been represented to me by the burgher Captain Albert van der Poel, that in the month of June last, two of his slaves, named Carel and Spadille, both natives of the Indian Archipelago, (Oosterlingen), had deserted; that he had obtained certain information that they are now among the Kafirs, and that the burgher Willem Prinslo, perceiving a chance of getting hold of them, had undertaken so to do, in consideration of a certain remuneration agreed upon between them; the said Van der Poel having very urgently requested that this might be permitted, I am disposed to accede to his request, under this condition however, which I have personally impressed upon the said Prinslo, that he shall take good care that he does not avail himself of that opportunity to barter any cattle from the said Kafirs.

These circumstances are accordingly not merely notified to you by this letter, but you are also strictly ordered to cause it to be particularly observed, whether said Prinslo acts in any manner contrary to my intention, and to the restriction under which the permission in question has been granted, in order that, in such case, he may be prosecuted.

In the Castle the Good Hope,
20th December 1773.

By order, &c.

O. M. BERGH.

†1773. DEC. 28. Extract of Records of a Meeting of the combined Boards of Landdrost and Heemraeden, and Landdrost and Militia Officers of Stellenbosch.

The Landdrost was further pleased to intimate that, as representations had been made by letters from the inhabitants of the Hantam, the Groote, Middel, and Kleyne Roggevelds, as well to the Honorable the Acting Governor as to him the Landdrost, that they were not only constantly plundered of their live stock by the congregated gangs of Bosjesmans Hottentots, who maintained themselves in the mountains, but that those villains (*booswichten*) had proceeded to such extreme violence, that they murdered their cattle herds in the fields, without their being enabled, in consequence of the great distance between their respective habitations, to assist each other in opposing the said robbers,—accompanied by earnest and humble requests, not only for the assistance of more men, but also that they might have the advice of the higher authority of an officer of Stellenbosch.

That he, the Landdrost, had expressly and principally convoked this meeting in order, in con-

(1) The formal Address of the Supreme Body of Directors is thus abbreviated, and distinguished from the subordinate local Chambers of Amsterdam, Zealand, &c.

† Papers which have not been previously published in the Dutch Edition are thus distinguished.

formity with the directions of the Acting Governor, to concert, with the assistance of the assembled members, the measures whereby the said robberies of the Bosjesmans Hottentots might be resisted, those villains attacked upon all sides in their dens, and, if possible, reduced to a permanent peace; and the inhabitants of those remote districts protected, in the best manner possible, from similar evils, of which, otherwise, more are to be anticipated: which matters were then taken into deliberation, and upon its being considered, in the first place, that, in consequence of the great extent of the mountains in the said countries, it is impossible to attack the said Hottentots at one and the same time, by the small number of men under the orders of the respective field corporals, without entirely denuding the country of its means of defence, and exposing it to the depredations, in other quarters, of another gang of Bosjesmans Hottentots; and, secondly, that it is not practicable—aye, quite impossible, for our inhabitants to attack the said robbers in the mountains without the assistance of other Hottentots, who are able to trace them and to clamber up to their dens in the mountains.

Added to this, that possessing at present only very imperfect information regarding the localities and state of the country, and mountain ranges in those quarters, and thus being insufficiently informed of the manner and the season of the year most proper for the formation and employment of the requisite commando, as well with respect to the difficulties which present themselves as to procuring a sufficiency of water for men and cattle.

And, furthermore, as information regarding the choice of a person upon whom the office of Field Commandant could be conferred with perfect security, may be best procured from the field corporals in that quarter, who are best acquainted with the circumstances of that country, and as, without the assistance before noticed, of good and faithful Hottentots, no good result is to be expected.—It was, therefore, upon the proposal of the Landdrost, unanimously thought proper, and resolved, that previously to proceeding to the appointment of a commanding officer, or coming to any final decision as to assisting the said inhabitants with a burgher commando, the field corporals of that distant country should first be heard, and their advice taken as to the manner in which the inhabitants concerned could be best assisted, particularly in respect to the best and most suitable season of the year; and that accordingly, all the said field corporals should be written to and directed to appear before this Board, without fail, on Monday the 28th of March next, at eight o'clock A.M. precisely.

Meanwhile the several members will render to the Landdrost written returns of the names of such Hottentots, distinguishing also the names of the inhabitants with whom they live,—as are expert in the use of the firelock, and can therefore be employed with a prospect of a successful issue: whereupon such final resolution may be formed, according to circumstances, as shall be deemed to be necessary and most expedient for the public welfare. (1)

M. A. BERGH. (2)

1774. MARCH 17. Extracts of Records of Landdrost and Militia Court, Swellendam.

After resumption of the resolutions of last meeting, appeared successively, the burghers Hermanus Pietersz and Pieter Cornelis van Neuwkerken, summoned for non-attendance at the last Exercise and Review (*wapen schouwing*) and were each condemned in a penalty of 8 Rds.; after which a second default, with its profits, was decreed against the burghers P. Nortier, W. F. Bezuidenhout, W. Nel, Ps., F. Botha, Fs., and Hermanus Lucas Crouse; as also a third summons for the next meeting, they also having been summoned, *eodem casu*, but not having appeared The burgher Hermanus Lucas Crouse was then spoken of, who having been once and again summoned before the burgher military court, for neglect of the ordinary annual military duty, had not as yet appeared, but had, on the contrary, replied to the intimation of those citations in a contemptuous manner, and besides, as is said, has, to the great injury of the good inhabitants, been engaged in smuggling and cattle barter with the Kafirs: all which matters having been deliberated upon, it was thought proper to report the said Crouse to the Government, as an evil-disposed and disobedient man; and most humbly to solicit the decision of the Governor and Council thereupon. (3)

Thus done, &c.

F. J. MENTZ.

(1) See March 28, April 19, May 17, 1774.

(2) Appointed Landdrost of Stellenbosch 5th October 1773, *vice* L. S. Faber, deceased, Aug. 10.

(3) See March 19 and 26, April 5, May 30, June 10, July 26, and August 24, 1774.

1774. MARCH 16. Copy of a letter from Landdrost and Heemraden of Swellendam to Acting Governor VAN PLETTERENBERG and Council.

HONORABLE SIR, AND GENTLEMEN,

Whereas the burgher Hermanus Lucas Crouse, who has been frequently summoned before the military court of this district for neglect of the ordinary yearly exercise, has not hitherto appeared, but, on the contrary, when it was brought to his knowledge, upon his removing to the Cape, that he was again summoned, he replied with the contemptuous exclamation, "O, that is nothing after all;" it appears, besides, that the said Crouse is, as it is said, engaged in illicit trade and smuggling, to the injury of the good inhabitants, and for that purpose, instead of travelling by this road in his journeys inland, avails himself of the passes of the Coggemans Kloof and Hex River, which lie far out of his way; and recently, as it is also said, sold publicly, at the Salt River, 300 cattle, while he made return⁽¹⁾, at the late *opgaaf*, of no more than 16 cattle and 100 sheep. We therefore feel it our duty to state, that it appears to us, under correction of the wiser and better judgment of your Excellency and Council, that such evil disposed and disobedient persons ought to be corrected in an exemplary manner.

We therefore bring the circumstances to your notice, with the humble request that we may be honored with such directions on the subject as to your Excellency and Council may seem fitting.

J. F. Mentz, Hermanus Steyn, Laurens de Jager, E. Meyer, J. de Steyn,
J. J. Botha, Lowies Forie.

1774. MARCH 26. Copy of a letter from the Landdrost of Swellendam to Governor VAN PLETTERENBERG.

HONORABLE SIR,

Whereas the burgher Lucas Hermanus Crouse appeared here three days after the meeting of Heemraden and Militia Officers, and, together with the soldier Sevensterren, made a declaration, which I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency, and with all respect to subscribe myself⁽²⁾.

Swellendam, 26th March 1774.

J. F. MENTZ.

(Enclosure of March 26.)

This 19th March 1774, appeared before me, Menso Blankstein, Secretary of the District of Swellendam, in the presence of the undermentioned witnesses, the burgher Hermanus Lucas Crouse, of competent age, who, at the requisition of the Junior Merchant and the Landdrost here, Mr. Joachim Fredrick Mentz, declared it to be true,—That about a year ago, though he cannot state the precise date, the appearer, together with the burgher Arnoldus Herring, who then traded with him in partnership, proceeded, with two wagons with articles of merchandise, bought, or rather taken upon credit, from the Assistant Messenger of the Council, Carel Kirchman, from the Cape, by the Hex River, to the appearer's place of abode, at Oliphants River, where the appearer and said Herring having removed into one of the wagons the goods most suited to their purpose, proceeded together further inland, to the Camdeboo, and thence to Kafirland, there to dispose of said goods, and to barter cattle for the same.

That the appearer and Herring before named, having arrived in Kafirland, there bartered cattle from the Kafirs, for beads, iron, and copper. As the goods, however, were procured by Herring, appearer does not know from whom they were purchased or taken on credit, he also states himself to be ignorant of the precise number of cattle bartered.

That the said Herring, having proceeded in advance with the said cattle, had disposed of them successively on the road, as well at the River Sonder Eynde as at other places,—the appearer not knowing the names of the purchasers.

The appearer further states that he saw F. Sevensterren, a soldier whose service was purchased from the Company, for the first time on his return from Kafirland, at the house of Fredrik Potgieter, at the Kromme River, and that, requiring a schoolmaster, he employed him in his service.

(¹) i. e. for taxation.

(²) See Reply of Government and Proclamation, April 5, p. 24.

Lastly, the appearer says, that when at Cape Town, he lodged at the house of the burgher Fredrik Herbst, and has sometimes been in the house of the burgher H. H. Bos, declaring nothing further, the appearer gives, as the grounds of his knowledge, as in the text, with offer to corroborate the same by solemn oath. Thus passed in the office of the Secretary at Swellendam, in the presence of the *Substituut* Johan Christopher Heymers, and the District Messenger Christoph Fredrik Wotke, as witness, who, together with the appearer and me the Secretary, duly signed the minutes of this, which I testify.

M. BLANKSTEIN.

(Enclosure of March 26.)

This 19th March 1774, appeared before me, M. Blankstein, Secretary of the District of Swellendam, Frederick Sevenstern, of Groningen, a soldier, &c. &c., who declares it to be true,—That his discharge being purchased by the burgher Fredrik Potgieter, he has served him as schoolmaster, at his place on the Kromme River, for four consecutive years.

That the burgher H. L. Crouse, upon a certain day, as he thinks in April or March last year, came to the same place on horseback, to inquire whether Potgieter wanted any merchandise, when Crouse asked him, the appearer, in substance, whether he would accompany him to Cape Town, and thence back again, upon a journey to the interior, with merchandise, in which case he should receive one-third of the profits.

That having undertaken so to do, Crouse returned to his wagon, which he had left at the place of T. Potgieter or C. Vermaak; that having staid a few weeks longer with F. Potgieter, he departed for the residence of said Crouse, where he arrived on the 15th May.

That in the month of November last he proceeded towards the Cape with Crouse, who took with him some cattle, which he had bartered from his neighbours, or along the road, which cattle he sold by public vendue, at the Salt River.

That after the sale he returned with Crouse from Cape Town, bringing with him some merchandise, consisting of cloths, linens, baftas, knives, &c., in order to take the same to the Gantous River and Camdeboo, which goods are now in the custody of the burgher Daniel Nortier, and that the appearer rode to this place with Crouse for the sake of company, as he was obliged to appear here upon a summons.

He lastly states, that at Cape Town he lodged with H. H. Bos.

Thus passed, and which I testify.

M. BLANKSTEIN.

†1774. MARCH 28. Record of a Meeting of the combined Boards of Landdrost and Heemraden, and Landdrost and Militia Officers, Stellenbosch.

This Meeting having been expressly convoked, in conformity with the Resolution of the 28th December, and in pursuance of the respected order of the Acting Governor, to adopt, with the advice of the Field Corporals, summoned for the purpose, such measures as might best contribute to the public welfare, with regard to the assistance to be given to the inhabitants of the districts of Camdeboo, Nieuweveld, Hantam, Groot, Kleyne, and Middel Roggeveld and Bokkeveld, against the Bosjesmans Hottentots, who still daily continue to murder and to rob, and also with respect to the appointment of a general chief, or commandant of the intended expedition.

The Landdrost was therefore pleased first to submit for consideration whether it might not be necessary, before proceeding to any final determination, that a return were made by the said field corporals, now present, of the number of such able Burghers and Bastard Hottentots under their orders as could be employed by them on this expedition, without too much exposing the country; which proposal having been adopted,—the return being made, and it being thus found that, including the men under the field corporals D. J. van der Merwe and A. van Jarsveld, now absent, and the number of Bastards and Hottentots residing with sundry persons, according to a return made by the members of this meeting,—that there might be thus employed about 100 Europeans, or Christians, and 150 Bastards and other Hottentots, and thus in all 250. It was further intimated by the said Landdrost that, as this force was too great to be sent out with any hope of success, unless under the guidance and orders of a Commandant, and the matter being furthermore too important to be left to the discretion and usual direction of the field corporals, it was highly neces-

sary that such an officer should be appointed, conformably to the intention of the government, in order to re-establish our said inhabitants, and also, in future, to maintain them, if necessary, by the strong hand, in the possession of their places of abode which they had abandoned in consequence of the said robberies.

The appointment, however, from among the officers of the burgher militia here, from their imperfect knowledge of those distant countries, as well as giving the assistance of burghers from this side, thereby stripping these districts of men and exposing them to the danger of murder and robbery by the slaves, being deemed to be absolutely impracticable, the Landdrost was pleased to suggest, whether it would not be best, first to ascertain the feelings of the Field Corporals on the subject, not only as to the mode, but as to the season of the year at which the said expedition best could and should take place, in order by this means to discover whether there might not be one among them possessed of the requisite qualifications; which proposal having been unanimously agreed to, and thereupon, with the advice of those field corporals,—the months of August, September, October, and November being deemed the best time, in consequence of want of pasture and water in the summer season, and the constant cold and swelling of impassable rivers in the winter,—and as all the said field corporals conceived that the necessary discretion, and the greatest share of fitness (*bequaamhied*) and vigilance were to be found in the person of Rudolph Godlieb Opperman, it was unanimously deemed proper and resolved, under the honored approval of Governor and Council, to appoint the said Opperman as commandant over the following field corporals, commanding in the undermentioned districts—(*see names April 19th*)—by whom, together with the men under their command, with the addition of the Bastards and other Hottentots, in whose fidelity and capability full reliance may be placed, a general expedition, in three commandos, shall take the field at the same time, of which one party shall march from the Swartenberg, the Camdeboo, the Sneuwberg, and also the Nieuweveld and Coup, under the field commandant; another from the Middel and Klync Roggeveld, and the Bokkeveld beyond the Witsenberg, under the field corporals Nicolaas van der Merwe and Pieter Jacobs; and the third from the Lower Bokkeveld, the Hantam, the Groote Roggeveld, and Oliphants River, under the field corporals Gerrit van Wyk, Gs. and Willem Steenkamp,—and thus attack the said robbers, from all sides, in their dens and lurking places in the mountains, and either by treaty (*in der minne*) or by force of arms, endeavour to bring them to a durable peace.—(*Here follow, verbatim, as in the letter from the Board, April 19, p. 25, details as to the rank conferred upon the commandant, &c.*)—There shall also be framed and submitted for the approval of Government the necessary written instructions, to which the commandant shall, during this expedition and thereafter, have to conform.—(*Here follow, as in April 19, arrangements for Periodical Reports.*)—It was lastly judged most advisable, and therefore resolved, to determine at the next meeting, with the advice of the said newly appointed commandant, at what time and in what districts the attack should be made, and also what ammunition and other articles shall be requested on the Company's account, from the Acting Governor and Council, or furnished by the Drosty for the same purpose.

M. A. BERGH.

1774. APRIL 5. Copy of a letter from the Governor and Council to the Landdrost of Swellendam.

GOOD FRIEND,

The letter addressed to us by yourself and Heemraden, of date the 16th of March last, together with your letter of the 26th, addressed to the Governor individually, having been this day read to the Council, we have therein noticed, to our high displeasure, the culpable proceedings of the persons (*persoonen*) Hermanus Lucas Crouse and Frederick Sevensterren; and seeing that the neglect of the Burgher Exercises, all acts of disobedience towards those who are appointed to execute the orders given by us, and also fraudulent returns of the property of the Colonists, are provided against by good laws and regulations, and that in particular bartering cattle from the Kafirs and Hottentots, has been again most rigidly prohibited by the Proclamation issued on the 26th April 1770; we will not suffer ourselves to doubt that you know what you have to do in the present case. At the same time, it may serve for your information, that the burgher Arnold Herring is already apprehended and lodged in prison by our order. (1)

In the Castle the Good Hope,
5th April 1774.

By order, &c.

O. M. BERGH.

(1) See Herring's declaration, May 30, and papers referred to in Note 3, p. 20;—the date of the Extract, March 17, is a misprint for March 16.

1774. APRIL 5. Resolution of Governor and Council (as published in the following Proclamation on the 16th June 1774.)

JOACHIM VAN PLETTENBERG, Governor, for the united chartered Netherland East India Company, of the Cape the Good Hope, and its Dependencies, and the Council, make known :

THAT WHEREAS, WE, to our highest indignation, have learnt that, notwithstanding that the barter of cattle with the Hottentots and the so-called Kafirs has been prohibited by the renovation and amplification of the successive orders to the contrary, and again in the most rigorous manner by the Proclamation which we caused to be published on the 26th April 1770,—some covetous persons have nevertheless contrived to discover means to render our said orders illusory, and to prosecute the said forbidden barter with the said Kafirs, by disposing of the cattle purchased from them—which are very easily to be distinguished from other cattle—as if they had been procured by traffic from the inhabitants of the interior: the better to cloak their culpable conduct by this fraudulent pretence. And whereas, by means of the said smuggling, various inhabitants have already become possessed of the breed of the so-called Kafir cattle.

It is therefore provided, in order to deprive all covetous pursuers of the prohibited cattle trade aforesaid, of the means and opportunity of which they can in any manner avail themselves, in order to render of none effect our orders to the contrary; and desiring at once to extirpate the said evil, root and branch, we have therefore thought fit to order and direct, as we order and direct by these presents :

That all persons who possess any of the so-called Kafir cattle, whether procured directly from that people, or bred by themselves, or other inhabitants, shall be required instantly, and without delay, to appear before the respective Landdrosts, under whose jurisdiction they reside, or possess farms, and to render to them a return of all such Kafir cattle or their progeny, whether bulls, oxen, cows, or calves, as are in their possession; of which cattle the bulls shall be forthwith cut and rendered unfit for propagation.

And, furthermore, every one shall, within the period of one year from the date of the publication of this Proclamation, rid himself of the same, and of all other kinds of Kafir cattle or their progeny, so that after the lapse of this appointed period, no remains of the said breed of cattle shall be found in the possession of any of the inhabitants of this country, on pain, not only of the instant confiscation of all such cattle, but furthermore of a penalty of 100 Rds. for the officer who shall happen to prosecute.

It having been further taken into consideration that various inhabitants may probably have come into possession of the progeny of the said Kafir cattle without having rendered themselves guilty of bartering the same, or of participating therein, it is therefore provided, in order to assist such persons in getting rid of such cattle, that they shall be received on the Company's account, in liquidation of the rent of loan farms, in preference to other cattle; provided, however, that they be good oxen of four years old, which will be received by the respective overseers of the Company's cattle farms, and instantly branded with the Company's mark. At the same time the said overseers shall not only be bound to specify in their receipts the date on which such cattle may have been delivered, but also shall, every three months, make an exact report to the Landdrost, who shall duly examine the same, and take proper care that in this respect no malversations shall take place between the said overseers and the inhabitants.

Ordering further, by renovation of our said Proclamation of 26th April 1770, That henceforth no one shall settle beyond the so-called Bruyns Hoogte⁽¹⁾ nor Gantous River; the respective Landdrosts shall accordingly forthwith cause to be removed such persons as may have attempted the same, contrary to our orders.—(*Here follow the several sections of the Proclamation of 1770, in the same words, for which see p.p. 6 and 7, English edition, and compare p.p. 11 and 36, Dutch edition.*)

And seeing that it has also been discovered that for some time back some persons have made it their business to wander about every where in the interior, from one District to another, with goods and merchandise, conveyed on wagons, cars, horses, or pack oxen, thus also causing many irregularities in the said districts,—we have, therefore, for the prevention thereof, deemed it necessary in like manner to prohibit this practice, and have, accordingly, resolved to provide, that henceforth no one shall proceed with any goods or merchandise, conveyed on wagons, cars, horses, or pack oxen, into the interior, or ride about with the same for sale to the inhabitants, whether for cattle or any other article, either in the Cape District or in those of Stellenbosch, Drakenstein, or Swellendam;—on pain, that any one who shall be herein detected, shall not only pay a fine of Rds. 25 to

(¹) See Proclamation of 1770, in which Bruyns Hoogte is not mentioned. See, also, Note p. 7.

the prosecuting officer, over and above the forfeiture of the goods in his possession, but shall also, according to the exigencies of the case, be transported hence, as wilful transgressors against this order, and all such as shall receive any merchandise from such vagabonds, either by purchase or by barter of cattle or other property, shall also forfeit the same penalty of Rds. 25, for the behoof as aforesaid: And that no one may be enabled to pretend ignorance of all this, we order and desire that this shall not only be published at the usual place, here in the Castle, but also in the Districts of Stellenbosch, and Drakenstein, and Swellendam, and every where affixed, as we have found the same to be for the service of the Company and the welfare of this Government.

Thus done and appointed, renewed and amplified, in the Castle the Good Hope, 5th April 1774, and published on the 16th June following.

(L S.)

J. VAN PLETTENBERG.

By order of the Hon. the Governor and Council,

O. M. BERGH.

1774. APRIL 8. Copy of a letter from the Cape Government to the Landdrost of Swellendam.

GOOD FRIEND,

Complaint having been made to me by the Hottentots Platje and Draey of injustice and vexations done to them by the farmer Mathys Sondag, you are hereby, in the most earnest manner, directed to see that the said Hottentots receive prompt and full justice.

In the Castle the Good Hope,
8th April 1774.

By order, &c.

O. M. BERGH.

1774. APRIL 19. Copy of a letter from the combined Boards of Landdrost and Heemraden, and Landdrost and Militia Officers, Stellenbosch, to Governor VAN PLETTENBERG and Council.

HONORABLE SIR, AND GENTLEMEN,

The undersigned Landdrost, Heemraden, and Militia Officers having, in compliance with your respected order (1), and in conformity with your intention, proceeded—in our meetings of the 28th December of last year, and the 28th of March and 19th of April of the present year, which were convened for this express purpose, in order to concert measures whereby the inhabitants of the Districts of Camdeboo, Nieuwveld, Hantam, Groote, Middel, and Kleyne Roggevelds and Bokkevelds—might be at length (*dog eenmaal*) effectually secured and protected from the murderous rapacity of the Bosjesmans Hottentots, who constantly congregate together and maintain themselves in the mountains in those quarters, and who, according to repeated, and moreover to recently received information and complaints of the said remote inhabitants, have proceeded to such violence, that they not only murder in the fields the cattle herds of the inhabitants and then carry off the cattle to their dens, but also that their stubbornness had so far increased that they overpowered the homesteads and set fire to the dwellings. In order, then, that the said inhabitants should be re-established by the strong hand, and thereafter also maintained in the peaceful possession of their places of abode and cattle farms, which, from these causes, they had abandoned; we therefore, in our said meeting of the 28th December, took into preliminary consideration, as well, the necessity that the said robbers should, for the attainment of that object, be attacked at one and the same time in their places of concealment, and, in this manner, reduced either to a permanent peace and tranquillity, or otherwise entirely subdued and destroyed; as also, the impossibility which we feel of rendering to the said inhabitants any assistance from this quarter: and having furthermore considered that it is totally impracticable for our inhabitants to effect any thing towards the attainment of the object before stated, without the assistance of faithful Bastard and other Hottentots, who are accustomed to the use of fire-arms, and who can clamber into the mountains and there trace the robbers to their haunts.

For the several reasons, above stated, we were then obliged to resolve, previously to coming to any final decision upon the subject, to require the attendance of the Field Corporals commanding in the

(1) This order, also referred to in the proceedings at Stellenbosch, Dec. 28, 1773, and March 28, 1774, pp. 19 and 22, may have been verbally given to Landdrost Bergh, who had been recently book-keeper and sworn clerk in the Colonial Office.

said districts, and first to take their advice, not only as to the mode and manner in which we could, in this respect, best help the said inhabitants, but especially as to the season of the year which would be best and most convenient, as well with regard to procuring the water and pasture necessary to men and cattle, as with regard to the cold and other obstacles to be encountered ; which field corporals having appeared in our meeting before-mentioned, of the 28th of March, we first required them to make return of the number of all such Burghers and Bastard Hottentots living under their command, as they could, without too much exposing the country, employ for this purpose ; to the returns thus obtained we added the number of Bastards and Hottentots in the service of the inhabitants hereabouts, according to a return made by the several members of this meeting, and upon whose fidelity, and dexterity in the use of fire-arms, full reliance might be placed ; upon which it was found that there could be thus employed,

100 Europeans, and

150 Bastard Hottentots,—thus, in all, 250.

We then considering, not only that such a corps is too numerous to be sent out with the hope of any good result, except under the orders of a supreme commandant, but that this office, moreover, demands too much care to be entrusted to the discretion and ordinary management of the respective corporals ; it was, therefore, deemed highly necessary, in conformity with your respected intentions, that such an officer should be appointed ; but as such a commander must necessarily possess a due knowledge of the constitution of the country, the condition of the inhabitants, and the character of the Hottentots, and as from want of knowledge in these respects, it was deemed out of the question to confer the appointment upon any of the officers of the Land Militia here, and as, according to the opinions received from all the field corporals here present, the requisite qualifications of conduct, capacity, and vigilance, were found in the person of Godlieb Rudolph Opperman, we have therefore unanimously resolved, as the course most advantageous to the public service, to submit his name to the approval of your Excellency and Council, for the appointment of field commandant over the following field corporals, commanding in the undermentioned districts :—

David Schalk van der Merwe, in the Camdeboo country ; Adriaan van Jarsveld, As., upon the Sneuwbergen ; Charl Marais, along the foot of the Sneuwbergen ; Jacob de Clercq, in the Nieuweveld beyond the Coup ; Nicholas van der Merwe, in the Bokkeveld beyond the Witsenberg ; Pieter Jacobsz, beyond the Hex River, Gerrit Putter, in the Klyne Roggeveld ; Hendric Olivier, in the Middel Roggeveld ; Gerrit van Wyk, Gs., in the Bokkeveld, over the Doorn River and the Hantam ; Willem Steenkamp, in the Groote Roggeveld ; Lucas Steenkamp, on the lower part of the Oliphants River ; Johannes Arnoldus Botma, beyond the Picquet Bergen ; and Willem Burgert, Ws., upon the Oliphants River beyond the Picquiniers Kloof ;—by whom and the men under their orders, together with the Bastards and Hottentots, we have, with their advice and that of the commandant, deemed it best that a general expedition, under his supreme command, but in three divisions, should take the field at the same time, against the plundering Bosjesmans Hottentots, of which force one division shall consist of the field commandant and the field corporals D. S. van der Merwe, A. van Jarsveld, J. de Clercq, and C. Marais,—of the Zwaartenberg, the Camdeboo, the Sneuwberg, the Nieuweveld, and Coup.

Another, under the *Commando* of N. van der Merwe, with the field corporals P. Jacobs, G. Putter, and H. Olivier, of the Middel and Klyne Roggeveld : as also of the Bokkeveld beyond the Witsenberg ; and the third party under the guidance of Gerrit van Wyk, with the field corporals W. Steenkamp, L. Steenkamp, J. A. Botma, and W. Burgert, of the Lower Bokkeveld, the Hantam, the Groote Roggeveld, and the Oliphants River ; in order thus to attack the said robbers upon all sides, in their caves and hiding places in the mountains, and either to compel them to a peace, or otherwise entirely to subdue them. It is deemed most advisable that this expedition should take the field either in the latter end of the ensuing August, or at the furthest in the beginning of September, as being the most fitting season of the year.

But as it has appeared to us, with the advice aforesaid, that independently of the Christians to be employed, who in all are but 100, and thus constitute too weak a force to act with any hope of success against the numerous robbers, a much greater number of Bastards and Hottentots must, according to the returns received, be thus employed, who are unprovided with the fire-arms which are indispensable, and without which no advantage can be expected. We therefore take the liberty to request, as well for this purpose as for the general equipment of the expedition, that we may be supplied, on the Company's account, with the following necessary articles of ammunition, *viz.*—90 good fire-locks, 3 chests, covered with painted canvas, and provided with locks, in order to keep the same locked up and secured at night from the accompanying Hottentots and also from

the rain ; 900 lbs. of gunpowder, 1,800 lbs. of lead, 3,000 flints, 24 shackles for the legs, 48 handcuffs, to secure the male prisoners until either peace is concluded with them or they are entirely subdued.

And as the Field Commandant has represented that the said divisions will often, during heavy rains and bad weather, be obliged to encamp in the open country for days and nights together, when detained by the swelling of rivers, in a great measure surrounded by the robbers, and must therefore remain under arms, and upon their guard against sudden surprises, and must also, for the same reasons, have their ammunition always at hand, protected from the rain, dry, and fit for use, which cannot be done in the wagons, loaded as they will be with the provisions and other articles ; we therefore further take the liberty of requesting that three tents may also be issued, viz.—one for each division ; the wagons, draught oxen, and horses, required for this expedition, will be furnished by the field corporals and burghers employed thereon, as being those most interested, in proportions, to be fixed according to the circumstances and means of each, by the commandant and the leaders of the other divisions.

There will also be furnished, either at the cost of the Drostdy, or at that of the inhabitants hereabouts, who have grazing farms in the said remote parts, and have therefore, as well as the Drostdy, an interest in this matter ;—3 aums of brandy, and 300 lbs. of tobacco, as well for daily issue to the Bastards and Hottentots as to present, together with other bagatelles and trinkets, to the said robbers in the event of attaining to the desired object of concluding a peace.

With a similar view we also request that there may be issued on the Company's account, an assortment of beads and copper rings, and some staves with copper heads, bearing the Company's mark, in order to present to the so-called kraal captains or chiefs of the Bosjesmans Hottentots, as tokens that they are, in the event of our succeeding as desired, in concluding a permanent peace, taken under the protection of the Government.

And as it has frequently happened, not merely formerly, but, indeed, principally on the present occasion, that many of the said field corporals have, under all kinds of pretexts, requested their discharge from that office, without their being able to advance valid and lawful pleas of exemption—which, however, after inquiry, is found chiefly to be owing to their liability to serve on all dangerous expeditions, and to call out their subordinates for that purpose,—not enjoying, on that account, the smallest privilege, and being bound and compelled besides, upon a change of residence, to serve under others, or even under one of their own men who may have been appointed in their stead, and also to perform, as before, the ordinary duty of exercise.

We have therefore resolved, under the approval of your Excellency and Council,—as it is compatible with the circumstances of the times, with equity and necessity, that some provision should herein be made,—to add to the present title of those officers the rank of Sergeant (*Wagtmeester*) as well to stimulate them to the faithful discharge of their duties in general, as to encourage them on the present occasion ; and in order, as far as possible, to procure experienced persons to fill this office in future, we have resolved henceforth not to discharge them from all those duties of burgher exercise, excepting for very weighty and admissible reasons, and even then not before they shall have proposed another fit person to us or to the field commandant, nor until such proposed successor shall have appeared in person ; we have also deemed it useful and necessary, and most agreeable to the constitution of the country, that the field corporals shall, twice a-year, to wit.—once in six months, render a return to the field commandant of the number of men under their command, as also of all alterations which may occur among them, whether from change of residence or otherwise ; what young men have attained to the stature and age necessary to their being inscribed in the lists of the yeomanry, and in general a report of whatever happens in their districts of any kind of public interest ; of all which the commandant is personally to deliver a written report once in four months.

And seeing that the newly-appointed Commandant does not enjoy any prerogative whatever in consideration of the charge now imposed upon him, excepting his new title ; and as, besides the said thirteen field corporals, he has to command a large body of burghers, we have therefore deemed it most equitable, and have therefore unanimously resolved, to bestow upon him, for the better maintenance of his authority, the appropriate rank of cornet.

We have, accordingly, humbly to request that your Excellency and Council will be pleased to honor this arrangement, as well as that respecting the field corporals, upon the grounds which have been advanced, with your approval and confirmation.

We further take the liberty to submit for approval, the Instructions which we have framed for the guidance of the commandant during this expedition, and also for that of the field corporals under

his orders ; and trusting that we have herein acted in all respects conformably to the views of your Excellency and Council, and according to the exigencies of the case and the constitution of the country,

We have the honor, &c. &c.

M. A. Bergh, J. B. Hoffman, J. Blignaut, P. G. Wium, A. Brink, jr., J. R. van As, P. W. de Vos, P. A. Meyburg, J. A. Theron, H. A. Malan, J. de Villiers, J. Ps., H. O. Laubscher, A. J. Meyburg, J. A. Theron, jr., M. van As, D. J. Bleumer, Secretary (¹).

1774. APRIL 19. Instructions,—according to which the newly-appointed Field Commandant GODLIEB RUDOLPH OPPERMAN shall have to regulate his conduct upon the Expedition about to attack the Bosjesmans Hottentots, who still continue to commit murder and robbery.

As we, in conformity with the highly respected views and orders of the Honorable Governor *in loco*, Mr. Joachim van Plettenberg, have deemed it necessary to the welfare of the colony and inhabitants, and have therefore resolved, to send out a general expedition, under your supreme command, in three divisions, against the Bosjesmans Hottentots, who are daily proceeding in murder and robbery, in order to attack those robbers in their dens and hiding places, and to reduce them either to a permanent state of peace and quiet, or otherwise, in case of necessity, entirely to destroy them, in order, by this means, again to re-establish and thereafter to maintain in the peaceful possession of their abandoned farms, our inhabitants who have already been expelled from their dwellings and possessions by the said robbers :—we have, therefore, placed under your orders, as we do by these presents, the following thirteen field corporals, commanding in the districts herein specified,—(*Here follow the names and districts as in the preceding paper,*)—who, together with the men (*manschappen*) under their orders, constitute, according to the returns received, a force of about 150 men. As, however, it is quite impossible to afford you any more assistance of burghers out of these neighbouring districts, and as, at the same time, a much greater force is required for this expedition, as well as for the defence and security of the districts before mentioned ; we have, therefore, caused the field corporals, who are placed under your orders, to make a return, which is now handed to you, of such Bastards and other Hottentots as are resident with, or in the service of, the farmers, and upon whose fidelity, and dexterity in the use of fire arms, full reliance can be placed, and which return amounts in all to 150.

You shall, therefore, in the first place, make such a division with respect to the burghers under the orders of the said field corporals that one-third of the number may be left at home for the protection and safety of the country ; over which men so remaining at home you shall appoint, as provisional field corporals, the most fitting persons, to act in the place of the said field corporals until the expedition shall have been performed ; and with the remaining two-thirds, with the addition of the Bastards and Hottentots, you will commence the expedition and take the field in the latter end of the month of August next ensuing, or, at furthest, in the beginning of the month of September.

The wagons, draught oxen, and provisions required for the expedition, as well as three aums of brandy, to be issued to the Hottentots, must be furnished by the inhabitants interested herein, and those possessing farms in the said districts.

Towards the equipment of this expedition there have been issued by the Honorable Company, according to the accompanying separate list, the necessary fire-arms, ammunition, and other articles, together with some beads and staves with copper heads, bearing an engraving of the Company's mark, the Drostdy has added to the same end 300 lbs. of tobacco besides.

As, however, this expedition cannot be performed in one united corps, and on the contrary, as it is absolutely necessary that the robbers, who are scattered far and wide in the mountains, be attacked at various points at the same time, you shall therefore divide your men into three separate commandos, as nearly equal as possible, and appoint to each the necessary and fitting commanders, nominating also such as in the event of unexpected deaths or other casualty shall succeed to

(¹) It will appear, by the proceedings at Stellenbosch, that this letter and the accompanying Instructions, though dated April 19, were signed and despatched on the 9th May.

the command. You will, in the same manner, make equal division, among the three parties, of the said ammunition, provisions, and other articles.

And, although it is, indeed, impossible here to specify and prescribe to you how the march is to proceed, and in which direction the attack shall take place, still your arrangements must be so made that the said three commandos shall set out upon their journey on one and the same day, in the manner following, to wit:

The first under your own command with the field corporals, D. S. van der Merwe, &c.—(*Distribution and names as in the preceding paper*)—to assemble behind the Sneeuberg, and to make the attack in those districts.

The second, under the *Commando* of Nicolaas van der Merwe, to assemble at the Sax River, and make the attack in the surrounding districts.

The third, under the direction of Gerrit van Wyk, to meet in the Lower Bokkeveld, and to make an attack in the so-called Bosjesmansland.

So soon as this attack shall, in the manner stated, have been commenced, and when the robbers shall have been driven out of their dens and lurking places, beyond, or to the further side of the most remote dwellings of the inhabitants of the said districts, the commanders of the said parties shall not pursue them in an inconsiderate manner, and expose their men to needless danger, but, on the contrary, shall employ every possible means of entering into an amicable negociation with them, and thus endeavor to bring them to a cessation of hostilities and to a peace; to which end, on finding them so disposed, you will enter into a treaty with them, presenting to them, as a proof of our disposition to take them under our protection, a moderate portion of the said tobacco and other bagatelles and trinkets, together with a promise of giving to them, in the event of their conducting themselves peaceably towards our inhabitants, and leaving them unmolested, some farms to reside upon.

The object being attained in this respect, and peace having been concluded with the said people, you shall evacuate for them, and give to them for their occupation, as many farms, or tracts of country (*velden*) as, without too great injury to our own inhabitants, they may require for themselves or for pasture for their cattle. You shall also take the utmost care that our said inhabitants do not place themselves further than, or beyond the said Hottentots, nor molest them in any way or manner whatsoever, and thus again give them reason or inducement to revenge and murder. You shall, on the contrary, in such case, exert all your diligence and authority, and adopt whatever means may be deemed useful and necessary to avert or prevent the like. You may and shall also, should the object of making peace be accomplished, place over the said Bosjesmans Hottentots the so-called kraal captains or chiefs, and deliver to them, as proof and token that they are taken under the protection of the government, the said staves with copper heads, bearing the Company's mark.

In the event, however, of your being unable to dispose them in any way whatsoever to the proposals above detailed; and should necessity thus demand that they should be entirely subdued and destroyed, in such case it is left to your good management and that of the commanders of the other parties, to act therein according to the exigencies and circumstances of the case, and to attack and slay them, in such a cautious manner, however, that our own inhabitants may be as little as possible exposed to danger, and not rashly led to slaughter; and also that no blood shall be spilled without absolute necessity, and that as much as shall be by any means possible, the women and the defenceless males shall be spared.

And as it is evident that you will, in the attack, get possession of many of the wives and children of the said Bosjesmans Hottentots, and that they will become troublesome to you, it is therefore left to you again to release the women, but you will keep the adult and the young (*weerbaar en aankomende*) males in safe custody, until this expedition is ended and all is restored to quiet, when you will let them go, or divide them in proportions among the poorest of the inhabitants there, in order to continue to serve them for a fixed and equitable term of years, in consideration of their receiving proper maintenance, for which purpose some of them must be brought hither.

You shall, however, take good care and prevent their being—any more than the other free Hottentots who have entered the service of our inhabitants for hire—maltreated by them in an unlawful manner (as has more than once happened with many) and thus excited to wicked (*heilloose*) revenge. You will also take care that the cattle plundered from the inhabitants, which may be retaken during this expedition and afterwards, be restored to the former possessors, in proportion to the wants of each person.

As it cannot be foreseen how long this expedition will last, or when it can be brought to a conclusion, it is left to you to act therein according to circumstances.

When, however, the main point is attained, and the said robbers are either brought to a substantial peace, or altogether subdued, the commanders of the several parties shall, as soon as possible, and in the most suitable and convenient manner, transmit, by one of their men, either to you or direct to the Landdrost, a written detail of the result of their expedition and attack.

You will also restore to the inhabitants who, in consequence of the said robberies, have been forced to abandon the loan farms held by them from the Company, and to betake themselves to the abodes of other inhabitants residing nearer to this place,—their formerly occupied and indispensable farms, as well those on which they reside, as their cattle farms; of which your proceedings, as well as of the general result of this expedition, you shall then, as soon as possible, and without loss of time, deliver in person a detailed account in writing.

You and the commanders of the other parties will take care that the ammunition and other articles which have been mentioned, and which have been delivered to you, be frugally used and not wasted, nor unnecessarily expended; and after the termination of this expedition you will render, here, a proper account of the same, restoring whatever residue there may be.

And as we have, on this occasion, also deemed it necessary, and have, therefore, resolved for the welfare of the colony to make the following regulations and alterations in the duties of the field corporals, you will therefore take care that they do, twice in each year—that is to say, once during each six months—give in, either to you or to the Landdrost, as most convenient, reports in writing of all the men who reside in their districts, and also of all changes of residence; also of the number of burghers and other men who are fit or unfit for duty,—as also what youths, within those districts, have attained to the proper age and bodily stature, and have thus to be inscribed among the yeomanry (*burgerye*).

You will also take care that the said districts placed under your charge are, and continue to be, henceforth provided with the needful and qualified field corporals, in the room of those retiring, who will not be discharged excepting upon weighty and admissible grounds, while the said field corporals shall be bound and obliged, on requesting their discharge, not merely to propose another fitting person, but to send such proposed successor in person to you, or in the manner most convenient to the Landdrost, of which discharges and new appointments you will receive the necessary written intimation.

And as it is now quite impossible to prescribe any thing further for your guidance, as we cannot foresee what may be demanded by the emergencies of future events, and the circumstances of the time, it is therefore left to your own sound discretion and prudence, with the advice of the field corporals under your orders, according to the position of affairs, and the nature of the difficulties which may present themselves, to make such regulations and alterations—as well respecting this expedition as otherwise—as shall be found to be useful and necessary, of which, as well as of all changes and remarkable events in their districts, written reports shall, as above directed, be made through you by the field corporals, three times in each year, that is, once during every four months, and you shall, besides, in each half year, personally deliver, at this place, a general statement of the whole.

Trusting, now, that all will be managed by you discreetly, according to the duty of an upright and honorable man,—the authority of the government maintained, and the best interests of the colony and of the inhabitants duly consulted, we will recommend you the protection of the Almighty, and remain,

Your good friends,

Actum in the meeting of Heemraden and Military Officers,
at Stellenbosch, 19th April 1774.

M. A. BERGH, &c. &c.

†1774. MAY 9. Extract of Records of a Meeting of Landdrost, Heemraden, and Militia Officers, Stellenbosch.

A due report, to the Governor and Council, of the measures adopted, the arrangements made, and the appointments conferred by us, with respect to the intended expedition against the Bosjems-mans Hottentots, accompanied by a humble request for approval of the same, also that the necessary ammunition and other articles specified might be issued from the Company's stores, together with the Instructions for the field commandant,—having been prepared,—in pursuance of our resolutions of 28th December last year, and the 28th March and 19th April of the present year, and the same being now resumed by this meeting, and signed by the members present, were despatched to the Honorable the Governor and Council. After which the burghers B. J. Vorster and J. Blignaut, Js.

were, upon their request, in consequence of bodily infirmity, discharged from the duty of burgher exercise, under the usual conditions; but a similar request from the burgher J. G. Trigard (1) was refused, as he could produce no admissible and satisfactory proof of his pretended ailments. From the 10th May to the 12th June nothing occurred.

M. A. BERGH.

1774. MAY 17. Extract of Journal, Colonial Office.

In the Council of Policy which was this day assembled, a letter was read, addressed to the said Council by the Landdrost Marthinus Adrianus Bergh and the Heemraden and Militia Officers of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, dated the 19th of the month of April last past, stating that—(*Here follows verbatim the paragraph which is inserted between brackets in the letter of the same date, p. 32;*)—as also regarding those who should command, in three divisions, the said detachments, what rank should be bestowed upon them and the field corporals,—what ammunition and other articles should be issued at the Company's expense, towards the said expedition, as may be seen, more fully detailed, in the Resolution taken thereupon.

Held by me,

F. C. BONNENKAMP, Sworn Clerk.

1774. MAY 17. Extract of Resolutions of Council.

Forenoon—all present. This day was read, a letter addressed to this Council by the Landdrost Marthinus Adrianus Bergh, together with the Heemraden and Militia Officers of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, under date the 19th of the month of April last past, containing as follows:—(*Here follows an exact copy of the letter referred to—see page 25:*)—and whereas it has appeared, from the contents thereof, that—(*Here follows verbatim the passage omitted in last paper, and inserted between brackets in the following letter*)—In the same manner it is also approved of that the Landdrost, Heemraden, and Militia Officers aforesaid, (that the said strong detachment may be conducted with due regularity), had—after having obtained full assurance that the charge might be safely entrusted to Rudolph Godlieb Opperman—appointed him Field Commandant, with the rank of Cornet.

It is in like manner approved—in consideration of the reasonable grounds advanced—that the field corporals of the districts, named in said letter, should have the additional rank of Wagtmeester, as also all the other arrangements which have been made relative to their office, among which is particularly noticed, as very useful and advantageous, that the said field corporals shall punctually report, twice a year, to the field commandant, and he again, every four months, to the Landdrost, upon every thing of any importance which may occur in the said extensive districts.

It was further thought proper, upon the request and proposal submitted in said letter, in order to assist the inhabitants in the performance of the expedition about to take place, to issue to them, on the Company's account, 90 firelocks, 900lbs. of gunpowder, 1,800lbs. of lead, 3,000 flints, 24 handcuffs, and 12 leg-ircus.

To which shall also be added, to serve as presents to the said Bosjesmans, on making a peace with them, 30lbs of beads of various kinds, 9 staves with copper heads, bearing an engraving of the Company's mark, 4lbs copper for bracelets, and three tents besides, for preserving the ammunition in general, and in particular, for taking care of the arms, three arm chests, provided with good oil-cloth coverings and with sufficient locks.

There was also read the Instructions drawn up for the field commandant, and transmitted with said letter, and as it was found that the same are in all respects so framed, that if strictly attended to, there is reason to expect a good result to this expedition, the said Instructions were therefore in like manner fully approved.

In the Castle the Good Hope,
day and year as above.

J. V. PLETENBERG.
OTTO L. HEMNEY, &c. &c.

1774. MAY 17. Copy of a letter from Governor PLETENBERG and Council to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

GOOD FRIEND,

After your letter of the 19th of April last had been this day read before our meeting, and it had appeared to us, from the contents of the same, that [you, after your deliberations (*besoign*) upon

(1) See 16th June 1794, 5th June, and 8th August 1797.

the subject, had found that, in order to protect the inhabitants of the Camdeboo, Nieuweveld, Hantam, Groote, Middel, and Kleyne Rogge and Bokkevelds districts, against the violence and pillage (*stroperyen*) committed for some time back by the Bosjesmans Hottentots, and again to re-establish them in the occupation of their abandoned possessions,—could not well afford them any assistance from the nearer districts, and had therefore been obliged to make the necessary arrangements for the employment—*independently* of a strong commando of one hundred persons, inhabitants of the aforesaid distant districts—of a force of one hundred and fifty, as well Bastards as aboriginal (*oorspronkelyke*) Hottentots besides, who are faithful to us, and fit to handle fire-arms : We, therefore, approve of all the aforesaid arrangements, as well in respect to the persons and the numbers of which the said commando shall consist, as of the mode of surrounding the said banditti, and in the first place endeavoring to induce them to consent to a permanent peace ; but, should there be no means of effecting this, in such case to bring them to reason by force.]

We approve, in like manner, of your having—in order that the said strong detachment may be regularly conducted, and after the good assurance which you have obtained, that the charge may confidently be reposed in the person of Godlieb Christian Opperman,—appointed him Field Commandant with the rank of cornet.

In the same manner we also approve of your having—upon the reasonable grounds stated—bestowed upon the field corporals of the several districts mentioned in your said letter, the rank of sergeant ; as also of the other regulations relative to their functions, among which we particularly notice, as highly advantageous and serviceable, that the said field corporals shall report, twice a year precisely, to the field commandant, and he again to the Laaddrost every four months, upon every occurrence of any importance in the said widely extended districts.

We have further, upon the request and proposition conveyed to us, in the letter before mentioned, thought fit, in order to assist the inhabitants in the performance of the expedition in hand, to issue towards the same, on the Company's account, 90 firelocks, 900 lbs. gunpowder, 1,800 lbs. lead, 3,000 flints, 24 handcuffs, 12 leg-irons ; to which are also added, to be used as presents to the said Bosjesmans, on making a peace with them, 30 lbs. of beads of various sorts, 9 staves with copper heads, bearing an engraving of the Company's mark, 4 lbs. of copper for rings ; there are also granted, besides, 3 tents for the preservation of the ammunition in general, and 3 arm chests, provided with good coverings, and sufficient padlocks for the security of the arms in particular.

We have also read the Instructions which have been drawn up for the commandant and enclosed in your said letter, and having found that the same are so framed (*ingerigt*), in every respect, that if strictly observed, we have reason to anticipate a fortunate issue to the expedition. We therefore, in like manner, fully approve of the said Instructions. (1)

In the Castle the Good Hope,
May 17, 1774.

By order, &c.

O. M. BERGH.

1774. MAY 23. Copy of a letter from the Landdrost of Stellenbosch to Governor PLETENBERG.

HONORABLE SIR,

The unfavorable state of the weather having prevented me from sending the wagons last Monday to convey the ammunition for the expedition against the plundering Bosjesmans Hottentots, according to your respected order, I have so arranged that the four wagons required, as well as the party for their protection, consisting of a sergeant, three corporals, and nine dragoons, shall attend at the guard-house on Wednesday the 25th instant, exactly at nine o'clock, to receive the said ammunition ; I therefore take the liberty humbly to request that your Excellency may be pleased to give directions that the same may be speedily issued, and sent hither, as the winter season is at hand, and as otherwise the several chief officers of the commando, who are to take the ammunition with them, will be obliged to remain with it for several days, should the rivers be swelled by heavy rains, and thus cause considerable delay to the general expedition, &c. &c.

Stellenbosch, 23d May 1774.

M. A. BERGH.

(1) "In 1774 an order was issued for the extirpation of the whole of the Bushmen, and three commandos, or military expeditions were sent out to execute it."—Report of Select Committee on Aborigines, p. 27.—For all the orders issued from 1769 to 1775, which have been as yet found, see Dutch Edition.

Extract Records, Stellenbosch.

1774. June 14. There was produced to the meeting, and read accordingly, the highly respected letters of the Honorable the Governor and Council, running thus (*here is inserted a copy of the letter of May 17; (supra page 31).*)⁽¹⁾ After which, the burger, F. Venter, who had, for a considerable time back, been unable properly to perform his burger exercise duties, from continued sickness, as was confirmed by his captain now present, was, upon his petition, discharged from those duties, continuing bound, however, to keep his arms always in good order and fit for use; a similar request presented by Isack van der Merwe was declined for the present, in consequence of the invalidity of the evidence produced.

M. A. BERGH.

Letter from Governor Plettenberg, to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

1774. June 14. Good Friend,—As we are now beginning to be in want of draught oxen for the Company, and as I am informed that there may, perhaps, be some to be had in your district, especially from the Hottentots living at Piquet Berg and Oliphants River, you will, therefore, cause inquiry to be made whether there, or elsewhere in your district, a lot of such cattle are to be purchased from the said Hottentots, for the service of the Company.

Letter from Governor Plettenberg to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

1774. June 17. Good Friend,—I send you enclosed seven transcripts of the renewed and amplified Proclamation, relative to the prohibited barter of cattle with the Hottentots, and so-named Kafirs, lately promulgated here; of which you will immediately cause six copies to be affixed at the usual places in your district; and you will publish the seventh in the month of October, at the burgher review which is then to take place; another copy is sent for the information of the overseer at the Company's farm Clapmuts, which you will cause to be delivered to him; and you are further directed to watch with the utmost vigilance, that the orders contained in the said Proclamation, are in every respect promptly executed.⁽²⁾ By Order,

In the Castle &c., 17th June 1774.

O. M. BERG.

Extract of a letter from the Landdrost of Swellendam to Governor Plettenberg.

1774. August 24. Whereas there have been absolutely none of the Hottentots residing at a distance, at this place with their cattle, in order to barter them to the Company, and it may therefore be reasonably presumed, that those who, as in the case of Hermanus Crouse, ride round the country in all directions, and thus not only get possession of what little remains to the Hottentots, to the prejudice of the Company, and notwithstanding the salutary proclamations successively issued to the contrary, but, furthermore, alienate those tribes from their lawful sovereign.

I therefore cannot omit to inform your Excellency of the same, and also to submit for your wiser consideration, whether it would not be proper, in order to stop all smuggling, to remind the

(1) The following are the contents, as stated in the return obtained from the Clerk of the Peace, at Stellenbosch, of two documents of this period, there deposited, of which copies have not as yet been obtained:—"1773, April 30. Field-Cornet Adriaan van Jaarsveld, to Landdrost and Military Court, Stellenbosch, reporting thefts of cattle, that the incursions of the Bushmen were never so daring or so frequent as during the last six months, that they are not to be overtaken, as they make no fires in warm weather. Inhabitants of his ward ask to be allowed to attack them at a favorable period, and destroy the first kraal they fall in with."

"1774. June 2. Adriaan van Jaarsveld to Commandant Opperman stating that from the repeated marauding incursions of the Bushmen in the Sneeuberg, he and the inhabitants of that part of the country contemplate abandoning it immediately. Reporting new depredations, and applying for a commando, with which to strike a decisive blow."

(2) 1774. June 16. Extract of Journal. There were despatched to the respective Landdrosts the necessary copies of the renewed and amplified Proclamation, which was this day published in the front of this castle, relative to the prohibition of the cattle barter with the Hottentots or so-called Kafirs, &c.

Hottentots to whom they must barter their cattle, and also in order to supply the Company's farms with cattle, which appear to be so much required, that the Corporal Theunis should be sent, towards October or November, to the Gamtoos River, and thereabouts, to barter cattle for the Company.

Should your Excellency be pleased to approve hereof, I have humbly to request that I may be allowed on that account, 40lbs. of small red beads, a small tent, and an iron pot.⁽¹⁾

F. MENTZ.

Extract of a letter from the Landdrost and Heemraden of Swellendam,
to Governor Plettenberg.

1774. Oct. 25. It having been perceived from some time back, that some deserted slaves represent themselves to be Bastard Hottentots, and under this pretext, instead of being detained and brought to the appointed places in compliance with the Proclamation on that subject, thus procure a free passage, and obtain employment among the farmers, to the great injury of their owners, who are thus not only deprived of their property and the work of the slaves, but are put to great expence and trouble in vainly endeavouring to find out the said evil-disposed slaves; this practise might also lead to many irregularities of this sort.

We, therefore, having discussed the matter at our board, have taken the liberty, with great respect, to bring this abuse to your knowledge, according to our duty, and humbly to submit, whether it might not possibly operate with effect against this abuse, if the inhabitants who have one or more of the said Bastard Hottentots in their service, should not be allowed to send any of them out any where, without providing them with a proper pass, and upon the said Bastards having completed their period of service, that they should receive a testimonial which they could show and deliver to any one to whom they wish again to hire themselves; thus at the same time, the said Bastards would be obliged properly to complete their period of service, and they would be prevented from annoying the inhabitants by frequent desertion, and hindering the progress of the work; thus also many thefts and robberies committed by this sort of people, as well through a vicious disposition as through poverty, could be more easily checked and prevented.

Relation delivered at the requisition of the Landdrost of Swellendam, J. F. Mentz,
by the Burgher Arnoldus Heyring, of competent age, as follows:—

1774. May 30. That the relator, as he thinks, about the beginning of this year, without being positive as to the exact date, left Cape Town for the interior, in company with Hermanus Lucas Crouse, with whom he was then in partnership, with an ox wagon laden with merchandise, of which they intended to dispose, and having proceeded on their journey beyond Bruntjes Hoogte, they, thereupon, went to Kafirland; that said Crouse then went with his wagon (and some beads and iron-mongery, which the relator had previously delivered to him,) to the bushes and lurking places of the Kafirs, he, the relator, in the mean time, remaining elsewhere in the country, out of fear.

That when the said H. L. Crouse, after an absence of two or three days, rejoined the relator, he brought with him about 70 or 80 Kafir cattle, of which the relator, on his return, sold to various inhabitants, seven or eight head, which he had received from Crouse for merchandise, without being able positively to state who those persons were; and that the residue of the cattle were left at the farm of the said Crouse; stating nothing further, the relator gives, as the grounds of his knowledge, as in the text, being ready further to confirm the same.

Thus related at the Cape of Good Hope, 30th May, 1774, in presence of H. J. Storm, and N. Cruywagen, as witnesses, &c.

(Which I testify)

L. KLOGE, Sworn Clerk.

(1) 1774. Sept. 20. Extract of a letter from the Cape Government to the Landdrost of Swellendam. I have to state, in reply to your letter of the 24th ultimo, that it being resolved, to despatch Maartin Theunisz the overseer of the Company's post the Buffel Jachts River, to barter cattle from the Hottentots, on account of the Company, he is therefore furnished with written instructions for his guidance in the said cattle barter, and also with an open order, copies of which are enclosed for your information.

Extract of Resolution.

1774. June 7. Upon re-perusal of a letter addressed to this Council, on the 16th March last, by the Landdrost and Heemraeden of Swellendam, together with the declarations thereto attached, it was understood, that the persons accused by that board—namely, Arnold Heering and Hermanus Lucas Crouse, of whom the first is in civil arrest in the castle, and the second has been ordered, by letter to the Landdrost of Swellendam, to be sent hither in custody, be again taken into the service of the Company in their former quality of seamen ; and, as useless, and, for this Colony, very hurtful subjects, sent to India.

In the Castle, &c.

J. VAN PLETTENBERG, &c.

Extract of Despatch from Governor Plettenberg and Council, to Governor General P. A. van der Parra and Council, Batavia.

1774. June 10. Two inhabitants, who resided in the District of Swellendam, named Arnold Heering and Hermanus Lucas Crausen, having some time ago wandered about, far in the interior, and even beyond the habitations of our Colonists, and there committed various irregularities, we have been compelled, in order to rid the Colony of such useless and mischievous subjects, to take them both into the service of the Company as sailors, and to remove them hence ; of whom the first named, A. Heering, is sent by the bearer of this letter, and the other shall, upon his being brought up, be dealt with in the same manner, &c.(¹)

J. VAN PLETTENBERG,
OTTO L. HEMMING, &c.

Extract Resolution.

1774. Nov. 4. The said Governor having then stated, that in consequence of the tongue and foot sickness among the Company's cattle, as well as of unusually heavy and long continued rains, and uncommon cold, a great quantity of the Company's stock, particularly draught oxen, had perished, so that the work for which such cattle were required could not be properly carried on, that he had, therefore, sent out Maarten Theunis, overseer at Buffel Jacht River, to barter from the Hottentots thereabouts, as many cattle as might be conveniently procured from them, and had furnished him to this end, with the instructions and open order now produced ; when, after reading the said instructions and open order, the measures which had been pursued by His Excellency, were deemed in all respects useful, and necessary for the Company's service, and it was understood that the same should be noted accordingly.

In the Castle, &c. date as above.

J. VAN PLETTENBERG.

Report of the Field-Commandant Nicolaas van der Merwe, of the Expedition performed against the Bushman Hottentots, with the following Corporals and men, as they took the field on the 16th August, 1774.

1774. Nov. 7.....[Here follows a list of four Field-Corporals who took the field with 27 Dutch (named) and 38 Hottentots—64 Dutch, also named, are stated to have "staid at home."] On the 16th and 17th Aug. advanced with the ammunition wagons to the *Drooge Land Cloof* ;—

(¹) The following correspondence contains the sequel of the proceedings against the persons whose illicit trading with the Kafirs led to the promulgation of the Proclamation of 16th June, 1774. (*Supra p. 24.*)

1774, July 26. Landdrost Mentz to Governor Plettenberg.—Honorable Sir,—This serves to inform your Excellency that the burger Jan Martin Elst, whom I humbly recommend to your Excellency's notice, is about to convey to Cape Town the burger Hermanus Lucas Crouse.

1774, October 21. Extract of Despatches from the Governor General at Batavia, to the Cape Governor.....We approve of your having taken into the service as sailors, and sent hither, the vagabondizing burgers Heering and Crausen.....

1775, October 13. The burgers taken into service and sent hither, on account of their bad conduct with the natives, are confined on the Island Edam, and the necessary orders have been given, that the gunner, the soldier, and also the sailor, do not return to you again, which is now notified for your information ; as also, that at our meeting of the 3d instant, there have been relegated to your promontory, the Captain Lauwt of Ternate, Prins Achmad, the deposed Sultan of Xullabessi, Mochadien and his three sons, and the Tidorese Abdul, of whom the five first are to remain until further orders, and the last for 50 years.

Batavia October 13, 1775.

A. VAN DER PARRA.

18, to the place of Hendrik Korf, in the Dry land (Carroo?);—19 and 20, halted and cast bullets;—21, to the place of Gerrit Visser;—22, halted;—23, under *Roggeveld Berg*;—24, at Gerrit Putter's;—25, to *Caree Bosch*;—26, to behind *Spits Kop*;—27, to *Riet Fontein*;—28, to *Coupsberg*;—29, at *Palmiet-fonteyn*, below *Coupsberg*; halted and sent out spies, saw no Bushmen;—30, lay still;—31, to *Doorn-River*. Sept. 1, at the *Dweka*;—2, lay still;—3, sent out spies;—4, discovered a Bushman kraal, in which were 16 Bushman Hottentots, who voluntarily surrendered;—5, sent out spies, who returned on the 8th, having discovered no Bushmen;—6, Jan Robertse, the provisional Field-Corporal, joined us at the *Dweka*, with 10 Europeans, and 13 Hottentots;—7, lay still;—8, to *Stinkfonteyn*;—9, the Commandant Van der Merwe and Field-Corporal Pieter Jacobs went out to reconnoitre with 18 men;—10, discovered a kraal about 9 at night;—11, a skirmish began with the Bushmen, 16 were shot in their kraal, and 6 taken prisoners. On the 9th the covered wagons had gone on to the *Willigbooms* River. The corporals, Robertse and Putter, reconnoitered. 12, found a kraal, in which 9 were killed;—13, the same party found a kraal, in which 30 were killed. On the 12th, the wagons advanced to the *Karmenade Kraal*, and on the 13th to *Doolhoffs* River;—13, Okkert Schalkwyk was wounded by the Bushmen in an attack, being struck in the side of the left leg above the knee, with an arrow, of which a portion of the poisoned barb remained in the wound; and as the arrow had penetrated very deep, there was no chance of extracting the barb without surgical instruments; he suffered with the wound 9 days, and died on the 21st, at the place of Koekemoer, where he was buried. 14, advanced with the ammunition wagons to the place of Koekemoer, sent out two parties of spies, Hendrik Olivier, with 24 men, and Nicolaas Jans van Rensburg, with 11 men;—16, Van Rensburg found a kraal, in which 8 were killed and 1 taken;—18, H. Olivier returned to the ammunition wagons, having found no kraals;—19, Nicolaas van der Merwe and Pieter Jacobs spied with 10 Europeans and 16 Hottentots;—22, took 3 Hottentots prisoners; Jan Robertse spied with 15 men and 16 Hottentots, found a kraal, from which the Bushmen had fled; the wagons advanced to the *Remhoogte*; and on the 23d, to the abandoned farm of Jan Duran; spied with 12 Europeans and 12 Hottentots;—24, they returned, having seen no Bushmen; the wagons proceeded to below the *Nieuweveldsberg*, and on the 25th, to *Bloemfonteyn*;—26, lay still, and sent out 16 Hottentots in 2 parties;—27, lay still;—28, the wagons advanced to *Verdriet Heuvel*;—29, Robertse and Olivier spied with 35 men, 18 Europeans, and 17 Hottentots, but saw no Bushmen; Carel Rasmus spied with 12 men, 4 Europeans, and 8 Hottentots;—30, he found a small kraal, in which 4 Bushmen were shot, 2 were taken, and 2 escaped; Rasmus came unexpectedly close upon the kraal, which lay in a very concealed position in the rocky hillocks, and he was thus compelled to attack it. October 1, Van der Merwe and Pieter Jacobs spied with 9 Europeans and 9 Hottentots, saw no Bushmen;—2, with the wagons to the *Sax* River.

On the 1st and 2d, Robertse and Olivier found a small kraal, in which 13 were shot and 1 taken; and then another small kraal, in which 9 were shot and 7 taken;—4, the Commandant Van der Merwe and Pieter Jacobs rejoined the wagons at *Sax* River; they had seen no Bushmen;—5, lay still; to *Hattang's Fonteyn*, with the Wagons; Van der Merwe and Jacobs spied with 11 Europeans and 15 Hottentots;—8, found a kraal, in which 5 were killed and 6 taken; with the wagons to *Brak* River; spied again with 10 Europeans and 18 Hottentots;—10 found a small kraal, in which 10 were killed and 11 taken; 12, with wagons to *Draay* River. 6, G. Putter spied with 18 Europeans and 14 Hottentots;—9, found a kraal, in which 8 were killed and 6 taken;—13, found a kraal where 7 were killed and 2 taken;—14, found a small kraal, where 6 were killed and 4 taken; returned to the wagons at *Draay* River;—16, to *Verdriet Fonteyn*, with the wagons;—17, Hendrik Korf, in seeking for water, made prisoner of a Bushman who confessed that there were three kraals in the vicinity, on which J. Robertse and H. Olivier, as also Van der Merwe and P. Jacobs, with altogether 27 Europeans and 33 Hottentots, went out to spy;—19, fell in with two small kraals at the same time, where 11 were shot and 14 taken;—21, found a kraal, in which 6 were killed, and some escaped by flight among the rocks;—20, with the wagons to *Renoeroes* River;—21, to the place of Korf, with the wagons;—22, to the second farm of H. Korf with the wagons;—23, halted there;—24, to the third farm of H. Korf with the wagons. These three farms were burnt down by the Bushmen, so that nothing remains but the walls;—25 rejoined the wagon, having on the 24th taken 9 Bushmen prisoners;—26, remained on the place of Korf;—27, to *Reit Poort*;—28, *Kleine Sax* River;—29, to the abandoned place of Leendert van der Linden;—30, to *Kleine Reit* River;—31, to *Groote Riet* River. Nov. 1, to the *Groote Brandvagt*;—2, to the place of Jan Myberg, on the *Roggeveld*;—3, to *Tanquas* River;—4, to the grazing farm of Jan Smits;—5, to *Ongeluks* River;—6 to *Paardeberg*;—7, arrived home in the Bokkeveld.

Thus passed and occurred on the expedition performed against the cattle-stealing Bushman Hottentots according to the tenor of the foregoing report.

(Signed) NICOLAAS VAN DER MERWE.

(*In Margine.*)—On the 26th of last October, made a verbal treaty of peace with an appointed captain named Joris, who was also taken prisoner at the place of Korf, on the Sax River; to which Hottentot the staff was given, with a present of some beads; and he promised to take care that in future no more cattle-thefts or other aggressions shall be committed (1)

Journal of the Commando under the Orders of Gerrit van Wyk.

1774. Sept. 2. († †) Assembled at the house of Hendrik van Seyl, on the *Vis River*;—3, inspected the Company's fire arms;—4, marched to near *Rhenosser River*, east, five hours;—5, ascended Rhenosser river to the *Klip Drift*, E., one hour;—6, to the *Riet Fonteyn*, N.E., seven hours;—7, to *Danssers Fonteyn* on the *Sak River*, N.E., one hour;—8, the train halted; Willem Steenkamp rode into the mountains with a Commando, discovered nothing, E. two hours;—9, his spies found nothing, N.E., two hours;—10, lay still reconnoitring, discovered nothing;—11, the spies discovered nothing, N. three hours;—12, back to the train;—13, descended Sak river to Klip Drift with the whole train, N.W., three hours;—14, rain; lay still; sent out 6 men to seek for water;—15, the commando rode away from the wagons to *Cyffer Fonteyn*; sent out spies in three parties, discovered nothing, N.E., five hours;—16, sent out spies to the *Rietpoorts Berg*, who reported that the Bushmen had shot arrows at them, and rolled stones from the mountains;—17, having reached the foot of the mountain at daybreak, the commando rode round it in two parties; that to the left under the Commandant; that to the right under Steenkamp, who fell in with Bushmen, in a rocky hillock, half an hour south of the mountain, they shot briskly with arrows, and would not come out when called; shot five, and took a child. The other party joined there; went on that evening to the *Carree Kloof*, where there was no water for the horses; the spies perceived nothing, N. five hours;—18, sent out spies in three parties, they saw nothing but footmarks; went that evening to the *Klippe Cloof*, good water, N. two hours;—19, sent for the train; spies discovered nothing;—20, the train arrived from Klip Drift;—21, in the morning the spies discovered fire at a distance; marched in the night to *Honingbergs Vlakte*; there divided the commando, one party under the Commandant, the other under Steenkamp; 22, at daybreak Steenkamp's spies perceived fire, they galloped to it; the Bushmen having ensconced themselves behind the fence of the kraal, shot Gerrit Bastert Minie through the hat, therefore shot 8; they would accept no peace; found cattle hides; the commandant marched up to the first fire that was perceived, and had them called out to make peace, but instead of answering they shot their arrows, therefore shot 10; found in the kraal the hides and tails of cattle. That evening the two parties joined at Rhenosser Fonteyn from the wagons, E., six hours;—23, sent for the train to Rhenosser Fonteyn; *klaauw* and *tong siekte* among the oxen;—24, Willem Steenkamp went with a commando, 54 in number, into the *Roode Klip* mountains, spies discovered nothing, S.E., three and half hours;—25, to *Dasjes Craale*, S.E., one hour;—26, the spies found footmarks, traced them to *Klip Fonteyn*, found nothing; E., one and half hour;—27, to the *Klip Cloof*, found nothing; N.E., two hours;—28, to the place where Andries Jacobs was murdered by the Bushmen; in the evening the spies discovered fire, N.E., four hours;—29, in the morning marched towards the fire, but the Bushmen had perceived something, and secured themselves in the *Roode Klippen*, where it was almost impassable with horses; they were called to, to come out, but replied with arrows and stones; shot 7, and took 3 children; the fight continued from daybreak to 4 P.M.; according to the statement of the Hottentots, a certain Samson and Cardougeh, who had aided at the murder of Jacobs, were among the killed; sent three men to fetch the train;—30, the train arrived; Oct. 1, a day of rest; cleaned the guns;—2, left the train

(1) This and the 28 other papers distinguished by the mark († †) had been for many years mislaid, after having been consulted by the author of "Researches in South Africa," and were, after a prolonged correspondence, fortunately recovered on the 12th August 1841.

The recovered papers from which this, and the following report are given, are copies, and are not authenticated. But from the tenor and handwriting, they have every appearance of being contemporaneous with the originals, and the details agree in every respect with those entered in the Journal (*vide infra*, 30th Nov. 1774, and 13th Jan. 1775.) The originals are still missing from the Colonial Office, and no copy of the report of the division under Opperman has been found.

in two divisions ; that under W. Steenkamp to *Potader Kraal*, N., four hours ;—3, to *Biesen Kraal*, the spies saw fire in two directions, N.W. two hours ;—4, halted to reconnoitre more closely ;—5, before daybreak in the mountain, E., two hours ; at daylight rode up to the kraal, but the Bushmen had perceived the wagons, and dispersed in all directions among the rocks ; two of them came out when called to, 7 were shot, 8 of the children taken, the rest escaped. That night rode to the other fire in the *Soute Valley*, W., four hours ;—6, in the morning attacked the kraal, shot 17, took 2 children ; returned that day to *Potader Kraal* ;—7, to the train at the *Leeuwen Kloof*, N.E., three hours ; the party under the commandant [had gone] on the 2d N.E. three hours to the *Leeuwen Kloof* ; on the 3d sent to fetch the wagons thither ; on the 4th the wagons came, when they rode on and found there deserted kraals, N.E., six hours ; on the 5th to *Drooge Cloofs River*, where they took a fugitive, who had escaped from the other party, otherwise they found nothing, W., three hours ; on the 6th found nothing ; rejoined the train in *Leeuwen Kloof*, S., seven hours ;—8, with the whole train to the *Verdriet Fonteyn*, N., eight hours ;—9, sent out scouts ;—10, the scouts came back, they had seen kraals that had removed, a party under the Commandant, went after them to *Haasen Fonteyn* ; gave orders for the wagons to go next day to *Soute Vley*, W., four hours ;—11, marched towards evening, and halted in the flat during the night, W., three and half hours ;—12, at daylight to *Serjeants Graaff Water*, fell in with a kraal there, and after an obstinate resistance 28 of the Bushmen were killed and 5 taken, 2 of whom had been wounded in the fight, which continued till 4 P.M. ; one of the prisoners said that some Bushmen had gone to the *Hantam* to fetch cattle, and that 2 were killed, one of whom was said to be the instigator, Ruyter ; they said also that the Bushmen were endeavouring to collect together in order to attack the train ; went that evening and halted in the flat, S.W., three hours ;—13, in the morning to the long *Leeuwen Kuyl*, sent 6 men to protect the wagons ; [travelled] that night S.W. five hours ;—14, in the morning attacked a kraal at *Kliprug*, killed 14 there and took 3, who told the same story as to the Bushmen intending to attack the wagons, and to fetch cattle from the *Hantam* ; two of the prisoners escaped ; went to *Sak River*, S.E., 2 hours ;—15, found a deserted kraal, rode to the *Gare Kap* ;—16, the wagons arrived from *Soute Vley* at *Gare Kap* ;—17, lay still, cleaned guns ;—18, the commando followed traces to the long *Leuwen Kuyl*, N. 7 hours ;—19, to the flat on the lower part of *Sak River*, N.W. $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours ;—20, in the morning, down the *Sak River*, sent 6 men to fetch the wagons, N. 1 hour ; in the evening spies returned, they had discovered a kraal ;—21, in the morning rode to the kraal, but they had fled, N. 1 hour ; returned to *Sak River*, the wagons arrived ;—22, lay still ; sent two of the Bushmen women to call the other Bushmen to come and make peace, with directions to return in 5 days, gave them beads and tobacco, and showed them the staves and rings ;—23, 24, 25, awaited [their return] ;—26, No Bushmen yet came ;—27, the two women came back in the evening, saying that they could not follow or find the fugitive Bushmen, in consequence of want of water which prevented them following the traces any further, and that the nearest kraal had alarmed the others ; it was therefore unanimously resolved not to ride any further, because also, no one knew of any water in that country.

28. Proceeded up *Vis River* with the train S.E. 4 hours, and there released two Bushmen prisoners, with four women, and their two children, who were still young, and let them go to their people, to seek for them, and to say that they must come to the *Hantam* to make peace, and that no one there should hurt them ; gave them beads and tobacco to take with them, as a mark of our inclination for peace. In the afternoon travelled up to *Vis River*, S.E. 6 hours ;—29, from *Vis River* to the *Hantam*, W. 10 hours.

We, the undersigned, hereby certify, that it is the simple truth that the commando was executed as above stated. (Signed) G. van Wyk, W. Steenkamp, [and 29 others]. Held by me, (Signed) Joh. Hendr. Eymen.⁽¹⁾

(1) † † An unsigned paper, apparently a copy of returns of the distribution of prisoners taken upon the general commando of 1774, consists of three lists. The first is entitled, "Prisoners divided among the party of Zarel Marais," the total number 69, the ages not stated, but the names of 37 persons are given, among whom 46, apparently children, were divided for various periods, from 10 to 20 years, only three for the latter period, of whom two are stated to have been "sucklings." With the exception of these three, the maximum period is 16 years. With regard to the disposal of the remaining 23, it is added, "liberated 12 women, with 6 sucklings, and 5 girls besides, whom some of our Hottentots took to wife."

The second list is headed 1st October, 1774. "I divided of the prisoners among those in want of them, to remain with them for their subsistence, as follows :—The total is 39, of whom 24 were divided among the same number of persons, in the same manner as above stated. The persons named being all inhabitants of *Sneeuwberg* and *Camdeboo*, it is probable that the list refers to a division by Opperman.

It is added,—"I gave over to Adriaan van Jaarsveld, a Hottentot prisoner, with his wife and child. I would have appointed

Petition of Inhabitants residing beyond De Bruyns Hoogte.

1774. Nov. 10. To the Governor and Council, &c. :—We come in all submission and respect imploring your Honors to accept this our humble petition, and to extend to us mercy and indulgence:

Great Sirs,—Whereas we have understood, with great sorrow, that numerous complaints have been made by our fellow burghers, to your Honors, against us, and which have much excited the wrath of your Honors against us, to our greatest concern and sorrow.

To the effect—that we are obstinate and rebellious against your Honor's Proclamation, and also against the prohibition of barter with the Kafirs.

But which we are not, and do not, but through our great poverty, for as we possess little, should we go to live upon the Sneeuwberg, and should the Bosjesmaus Hottentots take from us a single beast or sheep, we should suffer more [in proportion] than an inhabitant of Sneeuwberg, by the loss of ten cattle or sheep.

For many of these inhabitants beyond De Bruyns Hoogte, are not in possession of 100 sheep and 5 cattle.

Therefore, as there is here peace and quiet with the Hottentots, as it is fruitful for stock and for cultivation, and as there is also much game for our needful supply of food, we have come to reside here.

We request, implore, and pray for the forgiveness of your Honors, if we have done amiss by trekking over.

Great powerful Sirs :—We entreat, in all submission, respect, and obedience, that you will take pity on us, and permit us to remain here, and to pay rent to the Company for this country,

Then we shall, as obedient burgers and faithful subjects, each as far as he is concerned, take good care that such troublesome complaints be not conveyed to your Honors to awaken your anger.

Also requesting respectfully that, in that event, you may select a fitting person residing beyond Bruyns Hoogte, as Field Commandant, and impose on him an oath that he may arrange petty disputes, such as differences between neighbours, and that he may report to the high council of policy such as might trade or barter with the Kafirs, so that the transgressor might be punished as an example to the others.

We hope the Lord may bestow his grace upon your Honors, towards the desired result.

Meanwhile we shall not cease to pray God Almighty to preserve the dear persons of your Honors still many years in his holy keeping, and remain with all imaginable respect, your Honors most obedient humble servants, *A. Krugel, W. Prinsloo, Johannes Klopper, Johannes Nortje, Jz., Jacobus Potgieter, Frans Labus Canje, Louis Nel, Dirk Schalkwyk, Pieter Willemz Nel, Willem Prinsloo, Jr., Hendrik Kloppers, Hendrik Prinsloo, Claas Prinsloo.*

Copy of a Letter from the Landdrost of Swellendam to Governor Plettenberg.

1774. Nov. 20. Hon. Sir,—I take the liberty of transmitting herewith the account of the Company's live stock now upon the stations at River Sonder End, Rietvalley, and Buffeljachts River, also humbly requesting that there may be issued, for the trade for the Hottentots, 200,000 Amsterdam copper beads, 504 lbs. tobacco, and 388 cans of arrack.

Swellendam, 20th Nov. 1774.

J. F. MENTZ.

Extract of Journal Colonial Office.

1774. Nov. 30. Of the three detachments of burger dragoons which were sent out against the plundering Bushman Hottentots, that under the *commando* of Nicolaas van der Merwe, which had performed the expedition in the Middel and Kleine Roggeveld, and then in the Bokkeveld, behind the Witsenberg, having returned, a written report was made thereupon, by the said Van der Merwe, that during this expedition, he had in several *rencontres* with the said Hottentots, killed

him one of the kraal captains, but he replied that he dared not undertake it, as his tribe would kill him. Released 6 women with 2 children at the breast, 2 of the prisoners died from cold, and 2 of disease."

The third list refers to the distribution by Josua Joubert, of 11 prisoners, among 10 persons named, for periods of from 14 to 19 years. With the exception of the names, this note contains the whole information contained in these lists.

142, and taken 89 of them, and that only one of his party, the farmer Ocker Schalkwyk, had lost his life, in consequence of a wound by a poisoned arrow ; and further, that he had made a treaty of peace with a certain Bushman Hottentot, named Joris, who had been taken prisoner at Sak River, and had, thereupon, on receiving his promise to take care that no thefts of cattle, or other acts of violence should henceforth be committed, appointed him captain, as a token of which he gave him a staff bearing the Company's mark, and also presented him with some beads.....

Held by me,

F. C. RONNENKAMP, Sworn Clerk.

Extract of a letter from Governor Plettenberg to the Landdrost of Swellendam.

1774. Dec. 12. As I last September gave to Martin Theunis, overseer of the Company's Post, Buffel Jagts River, detailed instructions for his guidance on a journey to barter cattle from the Hottentots, and issued to him the requisite merchandise, of which you were duly apprised by letter, I am much surprised that the barter has not yet been commenced ; as I find, by your report of the Company's cattle, that only 40 bull calves are purchased ; and had I not been informed by Theunis that these were cattle which had been brought to Swellendam by the Hottentots, and sold there, I should have remained in entire ignorance of that fact ; for, without mentioning any thing of how the former merchandise had been disposed of, you now ask for more. It would have been more regular in you to account for the former issues, before asking for more. Still, in order that the said journey may not be delayed, I have issued to Theunis 4 half-aums arrack, 240 lbs. tobacco, 100,000 copper beads, and 4 gross of pipes, directing him to take these goods straight to his post, and thence to set out on his journey, giving to you, upon his return, an exact account of the stock procured, and returning what remains of the goods, for both which you will remain responsible.....

Extract from Journal Colonial Office.

1775. Jan. 13. The return and the proceedings of the commando sent out under the Field-Corporal Nicolaas van der Merwe, against the plundering Bushman Hottentots, having been duly entered, under date 30th Nov. last year, due regularity requires that it should be here further notified, that the other two commandoes, which went out for the same purpose, under the Commandant C. R. Opperman, and the Field-Corporal Gerrit van Wyk, have also successively returned, and that the said Opperman has reported thereupon. That he, in compliance with the orders prescribed for his guidance on the subject, had taken the course of the Swarteberg, the Camdeboo, the Sneeuwberg, the Nieuwveld, and Coup, and that the Hottentots, with whom he fell in with in those quarters, opposed themselves to him, and the force under him, with such fury, that he had found himself compelled to resort to force ; there being, in sundry attacks, 265 of the said robbers shot dead, and 129 men, women, or children taken prisoners ; while on the other hand, some of his men, and he, Opperman himself, had been wounded, or struck by poisoned arrows, though no lives were lost in consequence ; and further, that at the so-called captain's kraal and at Buffels River, he had appointed two Hottentots, who evinced a peaceful disposition, Captains over their kraals, giving each of them a copper-headed staff, and presenting them with some beads, copper rings, and some pounds of tobacco.

The said G. van Wyk has also reported the occurrences of the expedition under him to the Lower Bokkeveld, the Hantam, Great Roggeveld, and Oliphants River, namely, that he had killed 96 of the said murderous and predatory gang, (*gespuy*) and taken 21 of both sexes, great or small, but that in the obstinate attacks and resistance of the Hottentots, none of his men were wounded, and only one shot through the hat ; as all this and the further proceedings of the said commandoes may be seen more minutely and amply detailed in the journals and report held and delivered by the said Field-Commandant Godlieb Rudolf Opperman, and the Field-Corporals Nicolaas van der Merwe and Gerrit van Wyk, and which are deposited in the office of the Political Secretary, together with the lists of such of the captured Hottentots as have been placed with various poor persons, for a certain term of years, to serve them for the needful maintenance. It meanwhile appears, from the said reports, that the number of Bushman Hottentots killed, amounted in all to 503, and that of the prisoners to 241.

Extracts from the Records of the Board of Landdrost and Militia Officers
Stellenbosch.

1775. May 9. The Field-Commandant Monsieur, G. Opperman, having reported in writing to the Landdrost, that several inhabitants of the Swellendam District, whose names he had stated, had settled as well in Camdeboo as on and about the Sneeuwberg; and who had requested the necessary (*attestatien*) passports for change of residence, from the Landdrost and Heemraeden of Swellendam, in order to be inscribed as Burgers in this, the district in which their farms are situate, without obtaining the same; and further, that some of these persons who had been out upon commando, and had thus been unable to attend at Swellendam for drill and review, had been summoned for the penalty thus incurred:—It was unanimously resolved, after reading the said letter, to address the following letters on the subject to the Landdrost and Heemraeden, and also to the militia board at Swellendam.....

1775. June 13. The Landdrost having laid before the Board the report which he had received from the Field-Commandant, Monsieur G. R. Opperman, of his expedition against the Bosjesman Hottentots, together with the lists of the men who had served on the expedition, or been ordered to remain at home for the defence of the country, in order thus to determine what persons should be prosecuted for the penalties incurred by absenting themselves from the last review:—It was, upon his proposition, resolved, in order to prevent incurring too heavy costs, to postpone the matter until next review, and then to summon at the same time the absentees from both..... After this the Landdrost stated, that the burger A. G. Schombie, who had served on the said expedition under the command of the Field Corporal Nicolaas van der Merwe, had come to him and charged the said Field Corporal with having acted contrary to his instructions, and caused innocent blood to be spilt; and seeing that such a statement must necessarily be inquired into, in order that the guilty might be punished according to desert; he, the Landdrost, had thought proper, as the expedition was sent from this place, and as the said Field Corporal acted under instructions issued by this board, to summon him before it, together with his accuser, in order that the case might be inquired into, and such decision come to as might be deemed necessary, according to the circumstances.

Whereupon, the said Van der Merwe and Schombie being admitted, the last named was desired to state what he had to say against that Field Corporal. On which he said, that Van der Merwe had not acted according to his instructions, for, after the attack upon the first kraal, he had refused to give over to him, Schombie, a Hottentot girl who had been wounded, and whom he, Schombie, had requested to have, in order that she might be cured; but that the said Van der Merwe had delivered over that girl to a Hottentot, as he had also done with a little Hottentot infant at the breast, who was severely wounded, to be shot.

On which Van der Merwe replied, that this charge was unjust; for, in the attacks and in the firing, some females and children had certainly been killed, although he, after the attack, had endeavoured, as much as was in any way possible, to provide that the females and defenceless children should be spared; while a few who were mortally wounded, and who thus must necessarily have suffered a painful death on the field, had on that occasion been dispatched, in order that their death might not be still crueler; testifying further, that he was not conscious of having acted during this expedition, otherwise than in strict compliance with his instructions in every particular; and that in this instance, he had been falsely accused, referring to the evidence of one Engberg Dykslag, now here, who had been constantly with him in the field. The witness being called in, and heard concerning the said charge, declared it to be false; adding, that he and all who had served under the said Field Corporal could say nothing else than that he had done his duty very well, and according to his orders.

The said Van der Merwe also produced a declaration signed by the burgers J. Jacobs, P. Erasmus, J. van Heerden, J. J. Joosten, and W. S. van Heerden, to the effect, that in all that was done on the commando under Van der Merwe, against the Bushman Hottentots, from the 16th August to the 26th Oct. 1774, nothing had occurred that was at variance with the orders given him by the Landdrost.

Upon this subject it was further stated by the Cornet Monsieur Bleumer, that during his recent journey in Roggeveld, he had heard Van der Merwe praised by almost all the inhabitants; who added, that they would like always to serve under him on commando.

The said Schombie was asked after all this, for what cause he had thus accused Field Corporal

Van der Merwe, as the contrary had been fully proved, and whether he also had any proof to adduce? He replied that it was because Van der Merwe had refused to give him up that girl, whom he would have taken out of compassion; and because he had afterwards turned him out of his house with some abusive expressions; adding, that he could not procure any declarations in support of his charge.

On which Van der Merwe did not deny that he had caused Schombie to quit his house in anger, but said, the cause was that Schombie thus falsely accused him, which had then reached his ears.

Upon which it was resolved, as it had appeared to the satisfaction of the Board, that the said Field Corporal Van der Merwe had done his duty,—to acquit and absolve him from this charge, as unfair and originating in self-interest.

While in order to check the disposition of such ill-advised accusers to bring forward such revengeful, self-interested, and unsupported charges, in this groundless manner, and to prevent the zeal and public spirit of the Field Corporals from being damped, the said A. G. Schombie was sharply reprimanded by the Landdrost for his said inexcusable and culpable proceeding, recommending him to take care how he made such unfounded charges in future. It was further unanimously resolved, to condemn him on that account to pay a fine of ten Rix-dollars for behoof of the treasury of the board.....

Report of Commandant Godlieb Roedolf Opperman.⁽¹⁾

1775. Aug. 15. († †) On the 12th June a report was made to me by the Field Corporals D. S. van der Merwe and Zarel Marais of the commando which they had conducted on the 1st June against the plundering Bushmen, when they shot 48, and took 12 defenceless children; many of these robbers escaped in consequence of the weakness of the commando, for fever has been recently very prevalent in the country, thus they could not pursue these robbers any further. I therefore thought fit again to order a commando behind the Sneeuwberg for the 1st August, as the Bushmen are constantly busy with robbing and murdering, as the Field Corporal Adriaan van Jarsveldt reported to me on the 28th June, to wit: that the Bushmen had again carried off by night 72 head of cattle from the kraal of Jakowis Joosten, of which he recovered 30, the Bushmen kept the rest; they also shot with arrows 2 of Joosten's horses, of which one died, and murdered the herdsman.

It has been also reported to me by the Field Corporal Zarel Marais that the Bushmen were very active in his district, they had away all Marais' cattle, though fortunately retaken, with exception of 2 which they had stabbed to death, and the robbers fled. From Schalk Vorsters they stole 6 cattle, and shot dead with arrows 12 sheep of Jan Viljoen. They had away the whole sheep flock of Davit de Villiers, though fortunately retaken, excepting some which they had killed; they got hold of none of the robbers who all escaped.....

On the 2d July, a Hottentot of Frans Joubert's complained to me that Joubert had taken away his wife, and requested that she might be restored to him; on which I ordered Joubert to give that Hottentot up his wife, and also to let her leave his service, paying her the cattle or wages she had earned.....

1775. Feb. 13. The Stellenbosch Journal of this date has an entry of a resolution of the government dated 17th Sept. 1754, which was produced and read. The resolution will appear again in its proper place, together with any thing that may throw further light upon its subject when issued.

“Extract Resolution passed in the Castle the Good Hope, Tuesday, 17th Sept. 1754. It was further represented to the Governor by the said two Landdrossts, that their substitutes had frequently complained to them, that when Hottentots were imprisoned for criminal offences, they did not receive the smallest payment for the food supplied to such prisoners. It was thereupon understood, that in future when Hottentots are confined for any criminal offence in any of the country districts, the substitutes shall receive the same allowance for their food and other supplies (*andersints*) as for an imprisoned slave; the amount of which shall from time to time be defrayed out of revenues of the respective districts.”

1775. Feb. 24. Extracts of letters from the Landdrost of Swellendam to Governor Plettberg. “In transmitting the return of the Company's live stock, I have the honor to report that Corporal Theunis, who set out on the 11th January last to purchase horned cattle for the Company, has not as yet returned, and that ten bull calves have been bartered here from the Hottentots.

1775. May 24. “It will be seen, from the accompanying return of the Company's live stock, that Corporal Theunis has purchased, for the merchandise received by him, 220 bull calves, and that none of the said merchandise remains on hand.”

(1) This paper is unsigned; but is evidently, from the tenor, as well as the writing, one of Commandant G. R. Opperman's periodical reports, according to the instructions of April 19, 1774, (*supra* p. 39.)

The parts of these general reports not extracted, relate to the settlement of civil questions of debt, pleas offered for not attending drill, and two notices to put down the names of applicants for particular loan farms for 6 months.

On the same day (4th July) Putter complained of a Hottentot who had deserted during his absence from home, and gone to J. de Beer, who was unwilling to give him up, on the plea that the Hottentot complained to him that Willem Basom, the servant of Putter, wanted to shoot him. I summoned Basom in order to question him, in the presence of De Beer and Putter, when Basom said that the Hottentot had lied, and that he had never thought of such a thing; on which De Beer said to Basom, "you told me that you would shoot that Hottentot." Basom denied having ever said so, and alleged that De Beer belied him, and that unless he proved the charge he had advanced, he, Basom, would consider De Beer a *schelman*. On which I let this case lie over until further orders. On the same day I examined the dispute between D. Koekemoer and J. de Beer, about the bastaard F. Toornheem, and decided that the bastaard should return to Koekemoer, as he said that his old master treated him well, and that he was tipsy when he hired himself to De Beer, and at the request of the bastaard, I ordered De Beer to let him go..... On the 15th Sept. the Field Cornet Zarel Marais reported to me all that occurred in his district, to wit, on the 14th July, the Bushmen took away 31 cattle of Davit de Villiers, when they made a commando, and fell in with some of the robbers, of whom they shot one, and took a child, but recovered none of the cattle. On the 18th July, the robbers again took away 9 cattle of H. van der Merwe, of which three were retaken, the rest the robbers retained. On the 19th August, the Bushmen stole 3 horses from Pieter Hugo, on which Hugo's servants pursued, but without success, so that the robbers have kept these horses. From Carl Persoon, 12 cattle stolen, also not recovered. A great number of Roeloff Korsten's sheep shot with arrows, they caught one of the robbers, but the rest escaped. So that the Bushmen are dreadfully active with stealing and robbing, and, therefore, the Field-Corporals are compelled to keep their men from drill, and at home, for they are no day certain that some theft may not happen. Z. Marais, therefore went over the names of his men, and requested that they might be excused from their burger duties, [*i. e.* proceeding to Stellenbosch for the annual drill and review,] as follows:- (here 20 names.) The Field-Corporal Josua Joubert, also has reported to me that the Bushmen murdered one of the herdsmen of Andries Pick, and while he, Joubert, was on commando with Jaarsveldt, the robbers had carried off a large lot (*heele gedeelte*) of his sheep, and also 2 cattle, so that the Bushmen are again at work in his district with robbing and murdering, he therefore requested that his men may be excused from their burger duties this year, more especially because their horses are tired with constant commandos,—the names are as follows (21 names.) Joubert's men who refused to go on commando are (4 names.)

Report of Field Corporal Adriaan van Jaarsveld, Sneeuwberg.

To Mr. Commandant Godlieb Roedolf Opperman.

1775. Sept. 4. (++) According to my duty, I have the honor hereby to communicate to you my regular report of all that has happened in my district since the month of April, 1775, with respect to the robbing and stealing of the Bosman Hottentots, and also of the commando consequent thereupon, from the date before stated, to the end of the month of August.

First. From the burger Andreas van der Walt, two hundred and thirty sheep carried off by the robbers.

Secondly. From Stephanus Christiaan Smidt, eighteen working oxen stolen by the thieves.

Thirdly. Stolen by the Bosmans, from Isaak van der Merwe, Jun., sixteen milch cows, whose calves were left behind, and died on his place from want of milk,

Fourthly. From Adriaan van Jarsveld twenty-one working oxen, taken away by the thieves; but by great good luck recaptured by a Hottentot who was herding sheep.

Fifthly. From Carel van der Merwe, Hendrik's son, seven head of cattle stolen by the evil-doers.

Sixthly. From Jacobus Joosten, Jun., a great portion of cattle stolen, as I informed you in my last letter; and two horses wounded with arrows, one of which died on the spot, and the other recovered; but the person who herded the horses was soon after found dead. Fourteen days after another horse of the before mentioned Joosten was killed by the thieves with an arrow, otherwise nothing remarkable has been committed by the thieves, except that the robbers are still daily traced and seen in all the recesses (*hoecken*) of the Sneeuwberg, which led every one to wish that the time were come for the great commando of the 1st August to take the field, which being acceded to, by you, at my urgent request, and which order being punctually complied with by

me, all the men assembled at my house on the 1st August to proceed on the commando, as stated in the subjoined list of the names of the men under their several Field Corporals as follows :—

(Here follow the names of 4 Field Corporals and 55 farmers, of whom 13 are stated to have been absent. The number is, however, stated at the foot of the list to have been 46 Christians and 31 Hottentots.)

Aug. 1. The commando arrived at my house.

2. Went with the commando to the house of Isaac van der Merwe, where, during the ensuing night, the Bushmen stole the herd of cattle from the homestead of Van der Merwe's other grazing place; they were, however, retaken the same night, with imminent danger of their lives, by the servants belonging to the farm; one of the cattle was severely wounded with arrows, and two of the dogs that came to assist, were killed by the arrows of the robbers.

3. Went with the commando north east-wards, but found nothing worth notice as far as Tafelberg.

4. From the said mountain we went on still to the north-east, until we came upon the higher part of Seacow River, where, while on the way, we came unexpectedly upon one of the cattle stealers, and also saw at a distance a great number of thieves on their way; and in order to create no suspicion in this captured thief, we were obliged to exhibit towards him a peaceable demeanour, so as thus the more easily to get the other thieves in our power. It was, therefore, unanimously agreed to persuade this Bosman that we came as friends, and were merely travelling to the said river to shoot sea cows; we gave him a pipe and tobacco, and sent him to his companions, to tell them of our peaceful intentions, and also to come to us to show us the way to the said river; but we saw no more of the thief.

5. North-west down along Seacow River to *Eylands Drift*, where, while on the way we noticed fire extending from place to place, which was known to us to be a concerted signal of the robbers to give each other notice of the commando; and it was always set on fire along the way by which Stephanus Christ. Smit's oxen had been driven, and thus no Bosmans came to us as yet, as they had been formerly in the habit of doing, when any of the men came to shoot sea cows.

6th. Took twelve men and two wagons and went to *Ronde Kop*, lying on the same river, where while on the way, we again came unexpectedly upon five robbers, and used the same words towards these prisoners, as to the first robber; and as a mark of friendship we shot a sea cow for them, at the said Kop.

7. Sixteen Bosmans came out of the mountains to the south, to us at Ronde Kop, where we shot some more sea cows, to entice the robbers by the meat; as I knew no other means that could be employed to pay the thieves for the constant murdering and cattle stealing. The carcasses were accordingly allowed to remain, and I moved off with my before-mentioned party to the *Blauw Bank*, down the Seacow River.

8. Shot twelve sea cows, and sent a message through the Bosmans, whom we had with us, to desire the men I had left behind to come to me from the *Eylands Drift*; they came to me about sunset.

9. Stayed by the sea cows we had shot, where another party of Bosmans came to us; asked them, through our interpreter, where their captain lived; they replied that he was in the *Roode Bergen*. Told them a second time that they must go to call their captain, to show us the road further on to the *Groote River*; on this they said it would be trouble to no purpose, as they knew to a certainty that he would not come. I then immediately perceived, as all the plunder is mostly driven in that direction, that it [his reluctance?] must be on that account. Soon after we all heard [sounds] as of the discharge of firearms, and therefore presumed that a party of thieves had passed through in our rear, and again stolen cattle, and that the men left at home had assembled, and overtaken them with the booty; and, as I thought, the same idea was entertained by the Bosmans whom we had with us, and my presumption was also next morning confirmed, as they all left us secretly during the night, and went to their dens.

10. Moved with the whole commando about two hours down the river, to a place which we soon after called the *Keerom* (Turn Back), whence the same evening I sent a party of spies back to the *Blauw Bank*, to see whether the fugitives were not at the sea cows; as I knew from experience of the habits of that tribe, that if they knew where carrion is to be found, they assemble there in the night. About midnight the party returned, with intelligence that they had seen there a great number of Bosmans, on which I proceeded in that direction with the commando, waiting for daylight, which soon appearing, I divided the commando into two parties, and thus—

11. Overthrew the robbers there; where on searching, we found one hundred and twenty-two

dead, and five escaped, who saved their lives by swimming through the seacow pool. We also took of the defenceless, twenty-one prisoners, of whom three escaped the same day ; and on our side Stephanus Vorie was wounded with an arrow, though not mortally ; and four other of our men were hit with arrows through their clothes. After counting the dead, we examined their things, to see whether we might not find something from which their robberies could be perceived, thus there were found among their things, ox hides and horns, which they had brought with them for their use. After the examination, I sent eight men on horseback to the north-east, to see if they could find any thing of the traces or carcases of cattle, so that we might take our measures accordingly, whether to be satisfied or not.

The eight men having returned to me, reported that they had seen the traces of the oxen leading still farther to the north-east than the Kecrom ; there was also seen by them the head of an ox, which had been slaughtered by the Bosmans, but the flesh of which [had been] consumed ; on which statement we resolved to go on still further to the termination of the *ossen spoer* ; but upon examining our provisions, we found it insufficient to enable us to go further ; and were thus obliged to turn back to the south-east.

12. Sent out five spies, to the south-east from the Keerom to the Roode Bergen before mentioned ; and in the night proceeded some distance in the same direction with the commando, to the *Schuyt Hock*.

13. The five spies returned, stating that they had seen nothing but fire lit by the Bosmans ; upon this intelligence, I sent out 9 other spies, and in the evening 6 mounted men, who returned towards daybreak, having seen nothing but fire lit by the thieves.

15. Went with the commando by night from the Schuyt Hock south-east to *Carolus Poort*.

16. Sent out 18 spies in two parties, each of six ; we also made prisoners of two Bosman scouts, who came to spy our camp ; asked them through an interpreter, where their Capt. with his people might be ; on which they told us that they were on the said Roode Bergen, and that there was in the kraal a Bosman who lay wounded by a ball through the shoulder, which wound he had received upon the occasion before mentioned, when the cattle of Isaak van der Merwe were taken ; still they were not frightend by this, but much more unanimous in repeating the former robbery. They further promised to show us the thieves ; upon which promise, I that evening sent a party of my men with them, ordering them to return the same night. Soon after their departure, some of the spies returned, stating that they had found a kraal on one side of the Roode Bergen, about an hour and a half northward, on which I marched with my men that night towards the kraal pointed out by the said spies.

17. At daybreak surrounded the kraal, and when the day favoured us with more light, fired upon it, when not one of the thieves escaped, but fifteen fell on the spot, and eight little ones were taken. On examining this slain kraal, we found the hides of cattle, and fresh mutton and suet. One of my men was also hit by an arrow through his clothes.

18. Turned back with my men to the said *Carolus Poort*, where those men awaited me whom I had sent out on the 16th Aug. They stated that they had been wofully misled by the two Bosman spies. At last the second party of spies returned, having found the kraal, which the two deceivers should have shown, but the thieves had fled from it, in consequence of the two false guides having led the men with them hither and thither about the kraal, in order to apprise their companions of the commando, by the traces. On this information, I sent out seven other spics with the said two cheats, but strongly impressed upon them, through the interpreter, that if they misled us a second time, they should certainly be put to death ; but that if they pointed out the hiding place of the fugitives, they should thereby save their lives ; on which they promised to point out the hiding place of the fugitives without fail. I then let them depart, but they had only gone about an hour, when the two deceivers fell on the ground ; our spics desired them to rise, but they lay as if dead, without making answer ; they then tried to make them rise by means of some blows, but they still made as if they were dead ; and seeing no means of getting these deceivers to leave the spot, and that they might not be any further betrayed by them, they were therefore killed on the spot by our spics, and quitting the dead bodies, and having come upon the traces of the fugitives, our spics kept the traces until they found them in a cavern in the Roode Bergen ; when they came back to tell us, and I proceeded that evening with the commando to their caves.

19. In the morning we fired upon them in their caverns, so that not a single one escaped. On counting the dead we found 44, and took 7 little ones, who told us that among the dead was a captain, but not the chief captain who governed over the whole Seacow River. Here again we had a man wounded in the neck with an arrow, but not mortally, named Hendrik van der Merwe.

After all was over we inspected the caverns, where we found more hides and sheep-skins than we had ever been accustomed to find in any field of battle (*verslagen plekken*). From this place we came back some distance to the *Windhoek*, where I again sent out 14 spies, in two parties. Towards evening those two men joined the commando whom I had left at home sick, as before stated, namely, Isaak van der Merwe and Barend Burger, who told us of the mischief committed by the thieves since I had taken the field with the commando. They had taken the whole sheep flock of the said Van der Merwe, from the homestead in the night; and the sheep had been recovered, with great danger, out of the hands of the robbers, who, in spite of every endeavour to prevent them, drove off 40 sheep, and some goats, and killed 20 besides. Sent these two men back, with letters to the Vice Field Corporal, H. van der Waldt, directing him to take the field as speedily as possible after me with a commando, to try whether he might not perhaps fall in with some of the wandering robbers.

21. In the night went with the commando to the *Riet River*, where I had appointed the spies to meet us, but they did not arrive.

22. One party of spies came to apprise me that they had seen nothing except one Bosman at a distance, who was going on before us, lighting fire as he went from hill to hill to give warning [of our coming.]

23. At night we moved back to the south-west from the place above-mentioned to *Renosterberg*, where the second party of spies joined, stating that they had seen a great number of Bosmans, who were in flight over the *Roode Bergen*, returning towards the north. This deprived us of any hope of again falling in with these fugitives, as we were in great want of food and lead. On this account divided the commando, and sent the Field Corporal, Josua Joubert, with his own men, and those of H. Myntjes van der Berg, behind the *Renosterberg*, and so to their dwellings. I marched with the other division south-west in front of *Renoster Berg* to the *Groote Valy*.

24. Dismissed the men, each to his home; but first and previously to their separation, I divided the young prisoners among the men, for I found it impossible to convey the prisoners to the Landdrost, according to your orders, for they were too little, and also sickly; besides, we had no wagons to carry them. 25. I came home. 26. The commando I had ordered took the field; but as H. van der Waldt was sick, the commando was under the charge of Barend Burger, [here follow 8 names]; but after wandering about for a long time, they found nothing, and came home on the 2d Sept., without effecting anything. But on the 3d a great number of thieves were seen within here. I, therefore, request in conclusion, that you will excuse my men to the Landdrost, for not attending at drill; not those only who were on the commando, but also those whom I was obliged to leave at home, namely, [here follow 12 names] for it is impossible that I can spare one of my men in consequence of the stir made by the Bosmans, for I must keep my men always ready to prevent, as far as possible, the present irruption (*inbreuk*) of the Hottentots.

Further, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant,

ADRIAAN VAN JARVELT.

Sneeuwberg, 4th Sept. 1775.

P.S. I have deemed it necessary to apprise you that there is a want not only of lead, but also of powder; so that each has barely enough to protect his own life, in the event of necessity, or of attack by the robbers.

Extract from Resolution of Council.

1775 July 11.....After which it was intimated by the Governor, that although it was settled by the Resolution of 13th Feb. 1770, that none of the inhabitants of the interior should place

The following are notices of reports at Stellenbosch for this year:—

1775. May 1. "Commandant Opperman to Landdrost. Report of cattle stolen in *Swarteburg*—commando under Andries van der Walt—pursuit—prisoners captured, having with them, hides, horns, &c.—prisoners attempt to recover bows and arrows—some succeed and escape, others shot—from not having means of securing prisoners, requests leave to destroy them in future—sheep and oxen stolen or killed—commando go out 1st June—attempt made upon sheep in a kraal—Bushmen killed."

Sept. 1. "Field-Corporal Van der Berg to Commandant Opperman,—stating that he cannot send his people to the annual drill in consequence of the commandos necessary against the Bushmen—reporting a fresh depredation, and that he had shot a Bushman, who had stolen his sheep and struck him with a *kierie*."

Oct. 1. "Field-Corporal Steinkamp to Landdrost—that the Bushmen, in his division, had been peaceable since the commando of the preceding year."

Oct. 1. "Nicolaas van der Merwe, Bokkeveld. List of Bushmen women and children taken prisoners and placed with inhabitants."

themselves beyond or over the so-called Bruyns Hoogte, some of the people in that quarter had, notwithstanding, from want of water or of grass for their cattle, found themselves obliged to *trek* over the said Hoogte, but, on being ordered by their respective Landdrosts to return within the said appointed limits, they had submitted the following petition [here is inserted a copy of the petition, *supra* p. 39.]

That he, the Governor, having sent this petition to the Landdrosts and Heemraden of the districts of Stellenbosch and Swellendam, in order to have the advantage of the opinions of these officers, together with those of their Heemraden and other intelligent persons, they had deliberated thereupon, and he had received from them the following reports:—

Report from the Landdrost and Heemraden of Stellenbosch to Governor Plettenberg and Council.

1775. Jan. 30. Honorable Sir and Gentleman,—His Excellency the Governor having been pleased to deliver, to the first undersigned, a certain written petition from some inhabitants who had placed themselves beyond the Bruyns Hoogte, and thus over the permitted and appointed limits, in which they earnestly request, not only permission to remain there, in consideration of their poverty, and the advantageous circumstances of the country there with regard to pasture and water for their cattle, and otherwise; but also to continue to possess the places, now inhabited by them, on loan, under the Company,—

The undersigned having also received, together with the said petition, an accompanying order to examine and report upon, not only whether the same could be acceded to without prejudice to the line of division between this district and that of Swellendam, but also in what manner the daily increasing population could be best accommodated by affording to them good farms and pasture, which are no longer to be found in the country near at hand;

And further, to arrange the consequent alterations in the said boundary, in such a manner as might be deemed most advantageous to the petitioners, and the other inhabitants in general, and for the greatest benefit and advantage to the two districts.

We have, therefore, in our meeting of the 23d instant, convoked for the purpose, with the advice of the late Heemraden Martin Melk and Jan Bernard Hofman, who were commissioned to assist in fixing the boundaries between the two districts in 1770, and also of the Field Commandant Godlieb Rudolph Opperman, who is best acquainted with the localities of the country there, taken into consideration that in the division of 1770, the Zwarteburg was adopted as the line of demarcation, and all the flats situate to the north of that line, together with the farms there situate, and also along the Bushman Mountains to the eastward, as far as the Bruintjes Hoogte, belong to Stellenbosch and Drakenstein; while on the other hand, those lying to the south of the said Zwarteburg, as far as the Gamtoos River, are incorporated with Swellendam.

It would, therefore, be the best for our inhabitants, in regard to the favorable circumstances of that country as to pasture and water, that the further boundary, extending in the same manner, should proceed from the eastermost, or further end of the said Zwarteburg eastward along the adjoining Cauchasberg, and so on along the north side of the mountains stretching to the eastward.

Whereby, consequently, all the farms and flats lying to the east and north of the Caucha mountains should appertain to Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, and on the other hand, those on the south to Swellendam. We, therefore, take the liberty to propose to your Excellency and Council the before-mentioned fixed boundary and extension, not only on account of the reasons before-mentioned, but in particular because we, with the aforesaid advice, deem the same the best division between this district and that of Swellendam; more particularly, should it please your Excellency and Council, in the corresponding extension of the said district of Swellendam, to limit the same by the Zwart Kops River, or at furthest, by the Bushmans River.

Submitting these proposals to favorable notice, in hopes that we have herein fulfilled our duty:

M. BERG, &c.

Report from the Landdrost and Heemraden of Swellendam to Governor Plettenberg, and Council.

1775. March 17. The undersigned Landdrost and Heemraden of the District of Swellendam, have the honor most humbly to represent to your Excellency and Council the complaints which the inhabitants of this colony have preferred for some years back.

That as, from the confined extent of this district, which extends only to the Gamtoos River, they were not enabled properly to spread (*uitebreyden*) themselves, with their daily increasing families, being enclosed by the colonists of Stellenbosch, who have not only the Camdeboo and Bosjesman country to the Bruintjes Hoogte, some days' journey further than Gamtoos River for a grazing country, but also further towards the interior, where no limitation was imposed; they, therefore, request the same freedom to move inland from that side.

The undersigned, therefore, together with the retired Heemraden and Militia Officers, among whom some, from having been frequently in that quarter, are acquainted with the nature of the country, having consulted in our meeting, beg humbly to represent,

That unless this district spreads further to the east and northerly, the inhabitants will not be able to procure for themselves or children any more farms, and thus, will not only always remain in their present impoverished condition, but will have reason to apprehend being still more reduced; because, unless they can procure more pasture than is to be found in their present confined limits, their prosperity will suffer a severe shock, (*kraak*) and the revenues of this colony, at present of little or no importance, instead of increasing will be still further diminished, so that they will be unable to keep the necessary buildings in proper repair, still less to liquidate the heavy debts with which they are now burdened.

And whereas it pleased the government of the land to establish this magistracy at a time when the country from Breede River to Mossel Bay was only inhabited by a small number of farmers, in order that every thing in the remote countries should proceed with the needful order and regularity, and that a watchful eye should be kept over the conduct of the inhabitants; and it also pleased the government to provide that the further settlements (*verdere districten*) should be subject to the jurisdiction of the Landdrost and Heemraad of "the distant districts," therefore the undersigned most humbly trust and pray that as the future prosperity and welfare of this colony cannot fail to be and continue to be agreeable to your Excellency, and also because since the commandos were employed in the direction of the Camdeboo, and which were executed with little trouble, (*omslag*) and trifling bloodshed, [*i. e.* to us?] the inhabitants have always lived in peace with the natives, (*inlander*) therefore, the undersigned respectfully request that your Excellency may be graciously pleased to grant a small extension to this Colony; on which subject the undersigned take the liberty, with all submission, to represent,—

That as the Camdeboo, with the extensive tracts occupied that have been added to it, which, were it permitted, we would say ought, by right, to have appertained to this colony, are now inhabited, and as (the country) along the sea, even to Bosmans River, would be of little or no advantage, as, however extensive, from the drought and numerous useless tracts of wooded country, it is for the greater part useless, and would, at the utmost, not form more than twenty farms.

The undersigned would, therefore, once more, submit to your Excellency, whether it might not tend at once to the advantage of the Company and to the rest and prosperity of this colony, if the country behind the Bruintjes Hoogte, along the mountains to the Fish River, as being nearly all good useful pasture land, were added to this colony, [*i. e.* district] so as to have at once, and for the present, a fixed boundary (*om met eenen voor eerst een vaste limiet scheyding te hebben.*)

J. F. MENTZ, &c.

Report on Boundaries by P. A Myburg.

To M. A. Bergh, Jun. Merchant, in the service of the East India Company, Landdrost of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, and President of the Heemraad there.

The undersigned Heemraad, when about to set out to the Camdeboo, and the cattle farms, about the Bruyns Hoogte, having been directed by your Honor to take that opportunity of inquiring as far as possible, in how far the order of government in respect to their not settling beyond the Bruyns Hoogte were respected and obeyed by our inhabitants of the districts of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, and also to render a written report of the result.

In compliance with the said order, he has now to inform you that he has personally ascertained that Louis Nel, Jacobus Potgieter, Frans Labuscagne, Willem Prinsloo, sen. Hendrik Krieger, Claas Prinsloo, jun. Hannes Kloppers, Hendrik Kloppers, and Jan Nortie, sen. who belong to the district of Swellendam, have actually settled themselves, with their families and their cattle, over or behind the De Bruyns Hoogte, which they state they have from time to time been absolutely compelled to do in consequence of the difficulty of procuring good farms, on which they could procure a subsistence in respect to pasture as well as water for their cattle.

He has further ascertained that the following persons, from about or upon the Sneuwberg and belonging to this, our district, have also from time to time settled there: Peter Nel, Jan Coetzer, sen. Philip Botha, Cz. Christoffel Botha, Hilligert Muller, Theunis Botha, Cz., Cornelis Besuidenhout, Wz. Jan Oosthuyse, sen. and Jan Oosthuyse, jun.

Also at the Sunday River, Willem Bota, Fz. Fredrik Bota, sen. and Jan du Plessie, also under the Bruyns Hoogte, on this side, one Coert Grobbelar, all belonging to Swellendam.

The undersigned having ascertained this, and having asked the before-named persons why they had not had themselves duly inscribed in the district of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, as being within the last line of demarcation between Stellenbosch and Swellendam, they all, with a few exceptions, stated that they would have done so a long time ago, and had already asked for their attestations from Swellendam, in order that they might be inscribed here, but that this had been refused them by the Swellendam magistracy, to whom they consequently continued to be subject.

Coert Grobbelar and Cornelis Bezuidenhout added, that they had twice successively asked this, but that it had been positively refused, although they prefer being under the Stellenbosch magistracy, according to the last division of government, to that of Swellendam, because it is more convenient for them to come here to exercise and review, than to Swellendam.

Hendrik Krieger, Hannes Kloppers, and Hendrik Kloppers, state, however, that they would prefer the

Swellendam magistracy, without having assigned any admissible reasons, the undersigned has, however, discovered that it is because they have for several successive years escaped attending the ordinary exercise and review.

The undersigned has also inquired, according to your desire, whether from the increase of the families of one district as well as the other, more farms might be required, and consequently whether an extension of the bounds of both districts would require to be made on that account; and he has not only found this to be necessary, because each of the before-mentioned men have barely one good place, indeed several of them must make shift to reside together, in poverty, upon one place, among whom he found W. Prinsloo, sen. C. Prinsloo, jun. and H. Krieger, on one, and J. and H. Kloppers, and Jan Nortie, also on one, whence they derive but a poor subsistence.

For the rest, the undersigned must say with regard to the last proposed extension and alteration of the limits of the two districts, into which he has personally and minutely inquired according to the best of his ability and judgment, as well by interrogating others as by his own observation, that the division and extension is in all respects equally advantageous for both districts.

A great mistake has, however, been perceived with regard to the name of the line of mountains proposed as a boundary, which is not called the Cauchas, but the Riet Berg, which Riet Berg extends as, in the said report, the Cauchas are said to extend; and it also presents itself as a boundary for the two districts, and no one would be able to place himself beyond it, as it ends or runs to nothing at the Fish River, the proposed limit of our magistracy.

The Cauchas Berg, on the other hand, lies indeed in the same quarter, but much nearer to this, and is so situated, that were it adopted as the boundary, the people of Swellendam would be enabled, as now with the Bruins Hoogte, to come round from behind into our district, which they, however, could not possibly do with the said Riet Berg, (as a boundary) as it terminates at the Fish River, unless any one were to pass over that river, when he would unquestionably be in the district of Swellendam.

Hoping that I have thus fulfilled your Honor's directions, the undersigned submits this as his respectful report.

P. A. MYBURG.

Stellenbosch, May 1, 1775.

After attentive consideration of the contents of these documents, it was resolved to extend the country appropriated to Stellenbosch and Drakenstein to *Visch* River and that of Swellendam to the Bosjesmans River; but as it is not well possible to specify the limits by which the country appropriated to these colonies respectively should be defined, it is deemed absolutely necessary that this should be a matter of mutual arrangement between the respective boards of Landdrosts and Heemraden, in order thus to obviate and prevent all disorders and inconveniences in the jurisdiction of these boards; and it was, therefore, thought proper to appoint an express combined meeting, on a day to be fixed by mutual agreement, to be held at Stellenbosch, and which shall consist of the Landdrosts, the officiating Heemraden, and the Secretaries, together with such persons, whether retired Heemraden or Militia Officers, as are locally acquainted with the country to be occupied, who shall be taken as *assumed* members from both colonies.

That the said combined meeting shall so regulate the boundaries, that the inhabitants of each colony be duly included in the country allotted to it, and not be hereafter at liberty, upon any new pretext, again to place themselves beyond the same. An exact report of their proceedings herein shall be submitted to this Council, by the said Landdrosts and Heemraden, for further consideration and decision. Due notice of this resolution shall be given by letter, with an earnest recommendation that, as the chief object of this combined meeting is that the regulation of the boundaries, and every thing dependant thereon, may be arranged in the manner most consistent with the public good, every thing shall proceed upon full consideration and with reciprocal harmony, without giving way on either side to perverse passions.

And as we have no other maps of the remote tracts inhabited by our grazing farmers than those which were constructed during the journeys to the north and to the east in the years 1752 and 1761, and as the countries comprised therein, are not only already occupied, but as the present extension will go still further, where the country has not been yet inspected (*opgenomen*) and is known only to a few persons; and as it is still more necessary now than before that a due knowledge of these countries also should be obtained, it was accordingly resolved, on the proposition of the Governor, that these still unsurveyed countries shall be also surveyed as exactly as possible, and that proper maps of them shall be constructed.⁽¹⁾.....

(1) The residue of the resolution relates to the appointment for this duty, of the ship's steward, (*bottelier*) Christoffel Hieronimus Leiste, who had been left behind sick by the ship *Huys te Spyk*, at a salary of 20 guilders monthly,—"he being duly qualified for that employment." A despatch of the same date and tenor as the resolution has been omitted, as also another of the 26th, forwarding the former to Swellendam by a messenger from Stellenbosch.

1775. Aug. 31. A letter from the Landdrost of Swellendam, with the usual periodical reports of Company cattle, wood

Extract Resolution of Council.

1775. Dec. 27.....After which the following report from the Landdrosts and Heemraden of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, and of Swellendam, was read relative to fixing the boundaries of both districts.

To Governor Van Plettenberg and Council.

1775. Nov. 3, Honorable Sir and Gentlemen,—The undersigned Landdrosts and Heemraden of the district of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, and also of Swellendam, having this day assembled at this place, in pursuance of your directions of 11th July, to regulate by a mutual arrangement, the division of the further extension granted to both districts, in order to obviate all disorders and inconveniences as to the respective jurisdictions; have now the honour to report, that, after ample deliberation, we have unanimously thought proper to appoint the following limits as the determinate division of the two said districts.

From the place of the burgher Pieter van der Merwe, where the road passes through the Swarteberg range, in a direct line eastward, over the Bruintjes Hoogte, along the mountains called Riet Berg, lying about two hours distant from the Bruintjes Hoogte, to the Fish River, so that the country lying to the north of that line may be incorporated with Stellenbosch, that to the south with Swellendam, while the inhabitants of the first-named district, may not place themselves beyond the Fish River to the eastward, and those of the last-named district, not over the source of the Bosjesmans River, in the same direction.

To which end the undersigned would deem it most advisable, that a land mark, bearing the Company's cypher, should be placed upon the Bruintjes Hoogte in that line, in order to avoid all differences as to the limits of both districts, &c.

(Signed) M. A. Bergh, J. F. Mentz, P. van As, P. W. D. Bos, P. A. Meyburg, A. B. Brakel, J. de Villiers, Paul Roux, W. C. Coetzer, J. Heyns, J. A. Holthausen, F. U. Potgieter.

On which it was resolved to approve of the boundary thus described as a line of separation between the two colonies, and to fix it accordingly, from the farm now occupied on loan by the burgher Pieter van der Merwe, where the road passes through the Swarteberg in a straight line eastward over the Bruyns Hoogte, along the Rietberg, which lies about two hours thence, to the Fish River. Accordingly, the country lying the north of that line shall be under Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, and that to the south under Swellendam. The inhabitants of the first named colony shall not be at liberty to settle eastwards over the Fish River; nor those of the last named colony, in the same direction, beyond where the Bosjesmans River has its source.

It was also resolved, in order the better to prevent all disputes between the said colonies respecting the boundaries thus fixed, to place one or more *Bakens*, bearing the Company's mark, on Bruyns Hoogte, and in any other part of the said line that may be deemed necessary.....⁽¹⁾

Report from Commandant Opperman to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

Reports of the Field-Corporals.

(††) 1776. Feb. 15....On the 11th Dec. Jan Horran had a little Bush girl named Sina registered for 25 years, and a little Hottentot named Roman, also for 25 years, both saved from the battle.....The report of the Field Corporal J. Joubert is as follows:—On the 1st Jan. 1776, took a commando to the farm of W. Louw, in the Swarte Ruggens, for the Bushmen had stolen 70 sheep

cutting, and inspection of the alarm cannon, has no other allusion to the natives than a return of the merchandise on hand suited to the cattle barter.

Oct. 10. A long despatch from the Directors, like most of the despatches of this period, has no notice relative to the natives. Censure for permitting Company's ships to anchor in Table Bay during the dangerous period (15th May to 15th August);—satisfaction at the reduced price of meat, (a contract for 5 years' beef and mutton three *swaare duijten* per lb., and 4 skills 4 stivers for a live sheep,) "more particularly as this almost unexampled cheapness is ascribed to the recent great increase in the live stock from absence of disease,"—and a remark, that the resort of foreign shipping to the Cape had contributed to lower the price of food by increasing the consumption, and had increased the revenues derived from the sale of spirituous liquors, are the only points of general interest. This despatch conveys, with expressions of approbation, the confirmation of Mr. Van Plettenberg as Governor.

(1) These papers are given in order to convey an accurate knowledge of a subject little understood, viz. the Boundaries of the Colony, which still were, in as far as regarded the relative rights of the natives, unlimited. From 1685 to 1745, the only seat of magistracy for the interior, was Stellenbosch. On the establishment of Swellendam, in 1745, the separate jurisdictions were defined by a boundary line; but no limitation was imposed upon either district to the eastward, until in 1770 it became necessary to extend the line in consequence of the inhabitants having passed, not the colonial boundaries, but the extremity of the line of demarcation of the two country jurisdictions. The prohibitions to pass Gamtoos River and De Bruyns Hoogte, in 1770 and 1774, had, as may be seen, (*supra*, p.p. 6 and 24) reference, not to territorial rights, but to the prevention of cattle barter with the Kafirs.

from the said W. Louw. The kraal perceived us and fled, so that we only took 3 prisoners, whom I had punished at my discretion (*goeddunke*).....On the 4th Feb. as to the report of H. M. van der Bergh, what has happened in my district, is, that on the last of December, 13 cattle were carried off from Jacob Naude ; we pursued with a commando, and retook the cattle, none were missing, but 3, which they had stabbed ; we shot one Hottentot. On the 8th Dec. the Bushmen stole 8 cattle from Jacob Naude, I pursued with the commando, and on the 8th found the Bushman kraal ; we there killed 25, and took 26 children. On the 10th of this month the Bushmen stole 9 cattle, 6 oxen and 3 cows, from A. J. Joubert. On the 12th attacked the kraal, shot then 15 Hottentots, took 10, and recovered from them alive 3 cattle. As to the report of Schaarl Marais. The two *schelms* whom I would have taken alive when on my circuit, they resisted, and I was compelled to shoot them ; this happened on the 6th Jan. 1776. On the 9th the Bushmen were among P. Hugo's cattle, but the herd saved them, excepting one which the Bushmen kept. On the same day the Bushmen took away 2 cattle from P. Hugo's other farm, and at the same time came intelligence that the Bushmen had taken away 27 sheep from Viljeon, and murdered the shepherd. On this sent a commando, of which I have as yet no report. They went out on the 20th. I must also inform you of the occurrence of the two little Hottentots of P. Swanepoel and C. Scolts. According to the accounts I have received, they were playing with a gun, when one of them was shot. I have received no reports nor intelligence from the Field Corporals A. van Jarsveld, D. van der Merwe, and Jacob de Klerk.....

G. R. OPPERMANN.

Report from Field Commandant Opperman to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

(††) 1776. March 1.....This serves to report to you that the *Bossiesmans* still increase from day to day, and assemble together in great numbers, to attack the Dutch in force ; for the Field Corporal Jacob de Klerk has recently sent me a letter, and has therein informed me of the whole circumstances of the robbers, that they have collected in great numbers, to lay waste the farms of the Dutch by night, and to set fire to the houses ; so that the Field Corporal De Klerk has requested me to send a commando thither to defeat those robbers ; but here, in the country, it is a matter of impossibility to collect a large commando, in order to offer resistance to the robbers, for almost every Field Corporal has enough to do with the robbers in his own district. It is, therefore, my request, Mr. Berg, that you will only send me a great commando from the upper country, were it but a couple of hundred men, if it can be done, for it is necessary here ; if not, we shall all be obliged to fly, as some have already done, and on abandoning their farms, the robbers have burnt their dwellings. We are not only in want of men here, but also of powder and lead, as the people have to oppose the robbers by day and by night. I therefore also request 1000 pounds of powder and 2000 pounds of lead ; and I also request that orders may be given to me to give the robbers no quarter, (*voor de voet te verslaan*) that is to say the robbers of the Zak River, in the Nieuwveld, to behind the Sneuwberg.

I have also heard indirectly that the inhabitants of Sneuwberg have abandoned their places, not being able to hold out any longer against the robbers ; and that they have removed into the Camdeboo. Should this prove true, Sir, then I fear we shall have a sad disaster, (*droevig geval*) for the robbers will then become bolder and more daring, in pursuing the Dutch, for they are already in the Swartenberg to rob and murder, where they have never been until now. I have been also verbally informed by Hendrik van Asswegen, that the Bushmen, that is to say the greatest part of them, have placed themselves at Zak River, and there securely fenced themselves ; and these robbers are also said to have a gun and two horns of powder, so that we could effect

1776. Jan. 20. In reply to a letter of the 29th Dec. Government informed the Landdrost of Stellenbosch that 53 firelocks of those issued for the commando of 1774, requiring repairs, should be repaired at the Company's cost, and those that were irreparable replaced, in order to be kept in readiness at Stellenbosch for future emergencies.

1776. Feb. 6. A letter of this date from Governor Plettenberg to the Board at Swellendam, announces the appointment as Landdrost, *vice* Mentz resigned, of the military officer Pieter Diederick Boonacker.

1776. March 25. A notice in the records of the Swellendam Board, states that Landdrost Mentz, before retiring from office, asked the members,—“ Whether during the period of his magistracy, he had done any thing to the injury of the district? (*colomie*.) Monsieur Jacobus Steyn answered in substance.—The president always said he acted to the advantage of the district, and that they were always obliged to do whatever he desired, Monsieur Hermanus Steyn then said, that he knew nothing to the contrary as yet, being new in office, but should he hereafter discover that any thing had been done to the injury of the district, he should then speak. The President then asked,—Had he not always lived on good terms with the members? to which they unanimously answered in the affirmative.” At this meeting a Field Corporal (P. Nel) was appointed for Agter de Brayns Hoogte.

little there with guns, as the robbers have fortified themselves in the mountains. It would, therefore, in my opinion, Sir, be a good thing, that some hand grenades were sent at the same time, and a couple of men who know how to manage them. I have still another request, Sir, that a couple of chief officers may come with the commando; for if we attack the robbers, we must act in three parties, of which, if the Lord grants me life and health, I hope to head one.

I am, &c. your friend and servant,

G. R. OPPERMANN.

(† †) 1776. March 3.....Sir,—I find myself obliged to report to you what has occurred in the district of Field-Cornet Adriaan van Jaarsveld, since the year 75 to 76, beginning from the 13th Nov. 75. On the 13th, stolen by the Bushmen, from Jan Albert Venter, 40 head of cattle, of which none were recovered. On the same day they were among J. Joosten's sheep, and took away 16. On the 18th, the robbers took away a lot of sheep from Andries van der Walt, which were retaken, with exception of some that they had stabbed. On the 24th of the same month, one ox from Pieter Venter. On the 29th, Andries van der Walt was robbed of 9 cattle; they pursued with a commando, but recovered nothing.

1776. On the 6th Jan. the robbers again plundered Andries van der Walt of 200 sheep, on which they pursued with a commando, and recovered 80, but found none of the Bushmen. On the 8th, Barend Burger's Hottentots fell in with a party of the robbers, of whom they shot 5 and made prisoners of 6, but the prisoners subsequently escaped. On the 10th, the robbers were in the kraal of Martinus Pretorius, in the night, in order to steal sheep, when one of them was shot. On the same day the robbers were among J. Joosten's sheep in the day time, and stabbed several dead. On the 15th, the Bushmen were by night on the place of Stephanus Smit, to steal his cattle, but failed; several of Smit's dogs were wounded with arrows. On the 20th, the robbers stole 23 cattle from Isaac van der Merwel, and *murdered two of the herdsmen*, on this a commando pursued, of which no intelligence has been received.

From this you may easily imagine, Mr. Berg, how the people on Sneeuberg are disposed, for they are not certain day or night that they may not lose their little all, (*armoeit*) they are not even certain of preserving their own lives. The Field Corporal Van Jaarsveld has also asked me for a large commando, but as this is not advisable at present, the distemper being prevalent among the horses, I have written to the Field Corporal that he must just resist the robbers as much as possible till a fitting time. I request, therefore, Mr. Berg, that you will be pleased to take the matter into consideration, for the rage and fury of the robbers daily increase, and that not only on Sneeuberg, but I must say, in almost every quarter, so that each Field Corporal has enough to do to oppose the robbers in his own district; but should you think fit, Mr. Berg, to furnish me with twenty or thirty Bastards, accustomed to handle fire arms, I should think it a very good thing. I also request 200 pounds gunpowder and 400 pounds lead; and should this be granted, it might be sent me from Field Corporal to Field Corporal; and if possible, and you approve of it, Sir, I should wish that the ammunition were sent the sooner the better, for as the people on Sneeuberg cannot possibly hold out longer, should they be obliged to abandon their farms, it might happen, though I have better hopes, that those of Camdeboo might be forced to do the same; I therefore hope, Sir, you will take the matter into consideration, and, according to your good judgment, dispose of it for the best.

I am, Sir, &c.

G. R. OPPERMANN.

Extract of Records of Landdrost and Militia Officers Stellenbosch.

1776. March 5. The Landdrost having laid before the board the reports received from the Field Commandant, and the Field Corporals on the Bruyns Hoogte, and behind Sneeuberg; from which it appeared, that, although the Bushman Hottentots still daily continue their murderous and rapacious conduct, yet they had not carried off any number of cattle worth mentioning, or that merited the sending of a commando against them. It was, therefore, proposed by the Landdrost that—as, according to the said reports, the whole plunder consisted of 97 sheep and 75 cattle, while on the other hand, the commando of the Field Corporal Hendrick Myntjes van der Berg had killed 45 and taken 36 prisoners—whether it would not be expedient that letters were written to the Field Commandant, as well as to the said Field Cornet H. M. van der Berg, to desire that in such cases they should henceforth act with somewhat greater moderation, be less

vindictive, and as much as possible avoid the shedding of so much human blood. Which proposal being unanimously approved, it was then resolved to write the Field Commandant, in the most earnest terms, in the name of the board, to oppose with the utmost vigilance such, almost needless, commandos, and to give the necessary orders that henceforth there may not be so much unnecessary bloodshed, whereby the righteous vengeance of Heaven is drawn down on the country and its inhabitants; and further, that henceforth no such commandos shall be sent out, except upon his express authority.⁽¹⁾

It was also resolved, upon the proposal of the Landdrost, that he should request his Excellency the Governor for one of the usual captain's sticks, in order that, in compliance with the desire of Field Corporal Jacob de Klerk, (who had made peace with the Bushmen in his district, the Coup,) it might be sent to him, to be given to a captain whom he had appointed. After which the following warrant was issued upon the cashier of the district. To B. Lubbe, sen., for an *aum* of brandy supplied to Field Cornet W. Burger towards the expedition against the Bushmen in the year 1774, 24 guilders. Nothing occurred from the 6th to the 31st March.

Letter from nine Inhabitants of Sneeuwberg to Commandant Opperman.

1776. (††) March 18. Sir, — The object of this my present letter to you is, that the best means may be employed to secure our temporal peace, that we may be thus preserved and restored. We have reason to desire this; for though peace is the best of all human enjoyments, the fury of the Bushmen still continues to our injury. Be pleased but once to think upon the great assemblages of these heathenish evildoers, and we doubt not but your reflections will devise some means to assist us. So many thousands of Bushmen have united their inward anger and rapacity, and now oppress and injure us as they have never done before, as you may see by the enclosed report. Therefore, as in all human probability no peace is to be looked for through the strength and means of the inhabitants of Sneeuwberg, as neither the trouble nor the expence we have incurred has produced any favorable change, but rather leads us to fear for our own lives, though we have been before consumed by the land-ruining Bushmen, by the stealing of our cattle, which daily increases, so that we are too weak to make commandos, and still more to fulfil our just obligations to the Company. We, therefore, in this desperate condition have recourse to our superiors. Oh! that the Almighty and our government might be induced by our sighs and prayers to assist us with such a force, that through their wise counsel we may preserve our farms; for some of us are already flying to save our lives and what little we have left. But with all this we still have confidence, particularly in you, that we may be a little encouraged and restored in the month of August by a powerful commando under your orders, and that, with the few cattle we still have left, we may yet prosper, so that one day or other we may be enabled to pay our just debts to the Company and to our neighbours. But alas! how does it stand with us? Some of us are almost entirely ruined, so that there is scarce any hope of recovery.

We, the undersigned, all continue in good hope that our humble request will be acceded to by you, and remain, &c. A. van Jaarsveld, D. H. van der Merwe, Andries van der Walt, Hendrick van der Walt, Jan Albert Venter, Carel van der Merwe, Pieter Venter, Charel du Plessis, Frans Jooste.

(True Copy) A. FAURE, Sec.

Report of A. van Jaarsveld.

1776. March 18. Report of the mischief committed by the land-destroying (*lant verdervende*) Bushmen, since my last report to you. First, they have twice carried off the sheep of Jacobus Joosten by force, though retaken, with difficulty and danger of their lives, by August Klyneveld and Joosten's servants. They incurred so much danger in retaking the sheep, that they did not expect to save their lives, being so surrounded by the Bushmen that they were forced to break through by constant firing, and as, upon the killing of one Bushman, the next gave way a little, they got out, though 200 sheep remained in the hands of the Bushmen, besides those they had stabbed.

Secondly. A flock of sheep of Abram de Klerk carried off, but fortunately retaken the same day, from the robbers, all but 60, which, in all probability, were all killed.

(1) It will be seen that this resolution was passed prior to the receipt of the reports of March 1 and 3, and that it was adhered to after the receipt of these, and of other similar reports.

Thirdly. Five cattle of A. van der Walt carried off. Fourthly. Six cattle of J. van der Merwe taken by force, so that four Hottentots armed with guns could not prevent it. Fifthly. The whole of Jurie Myer's cattle forcibly taken from the homestead in the night, but retaken the next day, except 30, which are still absent. Sixthly. Eight saddle horses of Isaac van der Merwe and Stephanus Smit unloosed by night from a manger within the kraal, and carried off by the destructive race.

Seventh. A shepherd of Jan Horren murdered and 30 sheep taken.

Eighth. Seventy-eight sheep of mine carried off by my captain, who was in charge during my absence. He gave the sheep to his accomplices in the field, and deserted that night. I have now to apprehend treachery from him, as he is well acquainted with all the localities of my farm; or at least, that it will be with my horses as with those of Isaac van der Merwe. I am, &c.

A. VAN JAARSVELT.

N.B. The following persons have fled from their farms:—Frans Joost, Johannes van der Walt, Piet Venter, Jurie Myer, Jan Coetsee, that is forced away by the Bushmen; and were it not that they are detained by the remonstrances of those who still remain, they would have entirely quitted this part of the country, which would lead to further mischief.

P.S. With all this we have only shot 23 Bushmen, with three successive commandos; thus the commandos, according to the times, (*na den tyt*) are now in vain.

Letter from G. R. Opperman to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

1776. March 27. Mr. Berg, I again feel myself obliged to report to you the manner in which the *Bossiemans* still continue robbing and murdering, which increases from day to day. Here follows what they have recently committed in the district of Field Corporal Jacob de Klerk:—From the widow Vorie 11 cattle, 7 from Myndert Klasen, 2 from Gysbert Roos, 14 from Christian van Aardt, 3 from Jacob de Klerk, and 80 head of cattle from Frans Kruyger, 300 sheep from Stevanis Vorie, 100 from Gysbert Roos, a lot of Jacob Erasmus' sheep stabbed, 8 sheep taken from Cornelis van Wyk, and a shepherd murdered. Jacob de Klerk then led a commando against the robbers, but having got into the vicinity of their caverns, he perceived that his force was insufficient to act against the great numbers of the Bushmen, he, therefore, returned and demanded the assistance of the men of Field Corporal Zarel Marais, and again pursued the robbers, whom they fortunately found; but the moment the robbers perceived the Dutch, they charged; the Dutch, however, defended themselves bravely, and shot one hundred and eleven of the robbers.

De Klerk has now applied to me for ammunition, but I am unable to assist him, as I cannot strip myself; but it is again my request, Mr. Berg, that you may please to send me some powder and lead from one Field Corporal to another until it reaches me, for the people have shot away almost all their ammunition, for they are daily engaged with the robbers, and I dare not send a wagon and party to fetch it, for the robbers are busy robbing and murdering in all directions. I trust, therefore, Mr. Berg, that you will take the matter into consideration, for the inhabitants of Sneeuberg and Nieuweveld are almost all agreed to abandon their farms; in Nieuweveld some have already fled. I should also request a great commando, Mr. Berg, but from the prevalence of the horse distemper, I cannot venture to demand it, though it would, otherwise, be very necessary. But if you, Mr. Berg, can only send me the ammunition in the first instance, I shall see to make as much resistance as possible; and if the robbers will listen to no peace, in that case I request a commando from the upper districts, as also a chief officer. But, if you please, Mr. Berg, if it be possible, please to send me some Bastaards, who can handle fire arms.

I remain, with compliments, &c.

G. R. OPPERMANN.

Extract Records of Militia Court Stellenbosch.

1776. April 2. The Landdrost having communicated to the board the last letter he had received from Commandant G. R. Opperman, dated March 3, in which, among continued complaints of the increasing murders and robberies by the Bushmen, assistance in men, as well as in ammunition, was requested. Upon the proposal of the Landdrost, it was unanimously deemed best, to adhere, for the present, to our former resolution of the 5th March, and to postpone consideration of the last report as well as of the former, until receipt of further intelligence as to the state of matters.

with respect to the depredations of the Bushmen, when the whole may be considered at the same time, and the necessary decision formed.

The Field Commandant shall be apprised of this resolution, by means of a P.S. to the letter this day dispatched, in pursuance of our former resolution.⁽¹⁾

Letter from Commandant Opperman to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

1776. April 13. Sir, Mr. Berg, I again find myself bound to make you acquainted by this letter, with the melancholy state of affairs with respect to the Bushmen, namely, that the stealing and murdering by these robbers increases from day to day.

In the first place, the robbers, in the district of Swarteberg, on the 29th March, carried off 100 head of cattle from Jan Robbertse and Abraham van Wyk ; and from Klass Roets 16, and a whole [flock of ?] sheep, and severely wounded three of his Hottentots with arrows. In the night of the 31st March the robbers came to the place of Willem Jansen, and would have the stock by force out of the kraals, but failed, as the servants on the farm, by constant firing from the evening till morning, drove them back, so that they could not get the cattle out of the kraals, but they stabbed 17 sheep to death, and severely wounded 5 dogs, and a Hottentot. On the 11th April the robbers were among the sheep of Stevanus van der Burg, and stabbed some of them, and wounded the slave who attended the sheep, with four arrows, so that there is slight hope of his recovery. Thus you may conceive, Mr. Berg, in what a sad position I now am, for the distemper is so severe among the horses, that we can have no mounted commandos, and as for ammunition, there is a great scarcity here in the country. I have almost stripped myself, for the people have none ; therefore, I hereby once more repeat my request, Mr. Berg, that you will only be pleased to send me as speedily as possible the powder and lead for which I applied to you in my former report ; for it is a matter of impossibility for me to send to fetch it, and the turmoil and fury of the Bushmen will not admit of it ; and you may believe me freely, Mr. Berg, that here in the country we are in such a melancholy condition with the Bushmen, as I never could have believed, for several farms in the Sneeuberg, as well as in the Nieuwveld and Swarteberg, are abandoned, for the people could hold out no longer. For this you must know, Mr. Berg, that each Field Corporal has so much to do in his own district, that they can give hardly any help to each other.

I have, therefore, thought fit, Mr. Berg, to make requisition for a commando, namely, from the Bokkeveld, Verkeerde Valley, Roodesand, and Twenty-four Rivers ; as there are many people in those districts who have cattle in this country ; and should the distemper prevail in those countries also, then I request, Sir, that all who derive any advantage from this country, may collect among them oxen and wagons, and then we shall keep back the enemy on foot.

I remain, &c.

G. R. OPPERMAN.

Extract Records of the Board of Landdrost and Militia Officers Stellenbosch.

1776. May 7. The Landdrost intimated that he had, since the last resolution of the 2d April, not only successively received two letters from Commandant Opperman, dated 27th March and 13th April last, but a verbal complaint from Sergeant Willem Steenkamp besides, concerning

(1) The letter conveying the resolution of March 5, with the P.S. is not inserted, the tenor being the same.

It was provided on the same day to give notice that all the youths reported of age for duty (16) should, under the legal penalties, appear at Stellenbosch for enregisterment, within three months ; that the present Field Corporals shall be confirmed in the rank of Sergeant (*Waghtmeester*), and, in consequence of complaints that the inhabitants would not obey the provisional officers appointed by the Field Corporals to act during their absence, that corporals should be appointed where most required. The prosecution of those who had refused to assist on commando, and the consideration of claims to exemption from burger duties, occupy the chief space in these district records.

1776. May 6. The Stellenbosch *Civil Records* of this date detail the circumstances under which the power of recommending political removal, vested in the board of Landdrost and Heemraeden by the instruction of Dec. 29, 1689, (*supra*, Part 1, p. 445,) was called into exercise in the case of the burger Carel Hendrick Buytendag, whose deportation to Batavia was subsequently complained of at Cape Town as a stretch of arbitrary power on the part of Governor Plettenberg. The principal charge, of frequent and gross illtreatment of his Hottentot servants, was preferred by Nicolaas van der Merwe, Field Sergeant in Bokkeveld, and was aggravated by his repeated refusals to satisfy the injured Hottentots, when recommended so to do by his Field Sergeant, and by disregarding citations to answer their complaints. The details of the illtreatment are not stated ; but before the board made the request customary in such cases to remove the party complained of to India or Europe, "as a mischievous subject," &c. the Landdrost produced five notarial declarations, nine letters from Van der Merwe and two other burgers, extracts from the complaints of the Hottentots, &c.

the continual robberies and murders by the Bushmen Hottentots, in the districts of Sneeuwberg, Nieuweveld, Swartenberg, and Bokkeveld. With respect to the requests therein contained for the assistance of men and ammunition, he could not omit to bring them before the board, or to produce the said letters, in order conjointly to form such a decision thereupon as might be deemed most consistent with the public good, and as the case should be found to demand.

Which letters and statements, as well as the former suspended resolution of the 5th March, having been attentively read, and it having thus appeared, that, besides a considerable number of sheep, the said robbers had not only plundered our inhabitants in those countries, from Nov. last year to this April, of fully 300 head of horned cattle; but had besides murdered 8 of their herdsmen; while our inhabitants themselves were no longer safe against their attacks.

We have, therefore, in deliberating upon these reports, and taking into consideration:—First, that these predatory Bushmen, are only regarded as robbers, and destroyed, by the other good Hottentots, who have been gradually expelled from the country beyond the settlements of the Europeans by their depredations:—And again, that these robbers being unable to plunder anything more from other Hottentots in the vicinity of their own caverns and places of concealment, and as they live by robbery alone, are induced by their appetites to plunder our inhabitants of their means of subsistence, at first, without opposition, but on encountering resistance, by means of force and violence.(1) Thirdly. That in consequence of the progressive deterioration of the farms and pastures in the nearer districts, our inhabitants are compelled, by necessity, from time to time, to seek better farms at a distance, and with the approbation of our government, to settle in those grassy countries, whence the good aborigines or Hottentots, who always lived on good terms with us, have been gradually ejected by the depredations of the Bushmen, although these do not, like the others, turn the country to any useful purpose.

And thus lastly, it is to be feared that if this be not opposed betimes, and in the best manner practicable, and force repelled by force, these depredations may in a short time extend to the nearer districts, in the welfare of which, on account of their denser population, and more important produce, the Colony, as well as the Company, is deeply interested, more particularly should these attacks, instead of being repelled by opposition, be encouraged more and more, by the abandonment of the said tracts and countries, as has been already experienced.

And that, upon all the grounds and motives above stated, it would be best that there should be again a general commando against the said robbers, in order either to compel them to make peace; or to expel them from the vicinity of the present settlements of our inhabitants.

But as it appears, particularly from the said reports, that the said Field Commandant has, among other things, demanded not only to be assisted with ammunition, namely, with powder and lead; but also with men, wagons, and draught oxen, as well out of these neighbouring districts, as from those here who possess farms in those remote countries, and thus are also greatly interested in the matter.

We have, therefore, on taking into consideration that the intention of his, Opperman's, appointment—as Commandant over the thirteen Field Sergeants commanding in the said remote countries—was conferred, with the approval of government, chiefly with the special object, that he should constantly issue orders, according to the exigency of the circumstances, for such unavoidable commandos, as should be deemed absolutely necessary, without our always finding ourselves obliged to furnish from this quarter that assistance in men which is too burdensome for the burgers not interested therein; and also, that there are under the said thirteen Field Sergeants a number of men amply sufficient; but that on the other hand, it is but consistent with equity that all such inhabitants of these districts as possess farms and cattle in the said distant countries, should also contribute in proportion; and further, that in consequence of the constant commandos continued to this day, little worth mentioning of the ammunition issued by government in the year 1774, remains on hand, as appears by the accounts kept of its expenditure; and as without this nothing is to be done, but on the contrary much mischief is to be feared; this requisition of the said Commandant should be complied with.

It was, therefore, for the reasons stated, unanimously deemed best, and resolved accordingly

(1) Thunberg travelled in the Colony 1772—3—4—5. Sparmann in 1775—6. Both draw the same distinction between the pastoral Hottentots and the Bushmen. Thunberg observes, that previous to 1774, the Bushmen had, by their thefts, ruined the major part of the Hottentots, many of whom have gone into the service of the Colonists; that all the tribes were graziers, except the Bushmen. Sparmann states that, "the maxims of the Bushmen are to live on hunting and plundering, and never to keep any animal alive for the space of one night. By this means they render themselves odious to the rest of mankind, and are pursued and exterminated like wild beasts, whose manners they have assumed; others of them are kept alive and made slaves."

under the approbation of the Governor and Council, to inform the said Commandant Opperman, in reply to his said letters, that, for the reasons aforesaid, no assistance in men can be given from this quarter; while upon the other hand it was agreed that:—

He shall, with every kind of prudent management, send out either one general commando, or so many small ones under separate leaders, to be formed out of the men under the said thirteen Field Corporals, as the state of matters may require, and at such seasons as he, with the advice of his said sergeants may deem most suitable.

That he shall accordingly cause to be furnished by every one interested in the countries of the said thirteen Sergeants, in a fair proportion to the property of each person, the necessary wagons, oxen, horses, and provisions, particularly from those who cannot attend on commando.

That the necessary ammunition be requested from government, and if granted, forwarded to him from hence in the best and most convenient manner.

It was further unanimously thought best and accordingly resolved, earnestly to request His Excellency the Governor and the Hon. Council of Policy, after due communication of the premises, that they may be graciously pleased again to grant us, for the said expedition, from three to four hundred pounds of gunpowder, and from six to eight hundred pounds of musket balls.

And it was deemed best, should this ammunition be obtained from the government, that it be sent to the Commandant, with a proper guard, and an open order from one Field Sergeant to another.

It was lastly deemed a matter of the most absolute necessity, and therefore unanimously resolved, again to remind the Field Commandant in the said letter, to adhere to the instructions he has received, and accordingly to prevent and oppose the too needless shedding of blood, and the sending out commandos upon too light grounds; and to try every mode and device towards concluding a peace upon a permanent footing with the said savage tribes; and above all, to look well to the establishment of such orders as will prevent our inhabitants from causing on our side the first rupture of such peace by any provocation whatsoever; still less any molestation or unnecessary violence.⁽¹⁾

Letter from Commandant Opperman to the Landdrost of Stellenbosch.

1776. May 17. Sir,—Your letter of the 5th March did not reach me till the 10th May. I perceive from it your decision and that of the Militia Court, namely, that henceforth the Field Corporals are not to have any authority to make commandos against the robbers without directions from me, or at least without my previous authority, in consequence of so much human blood having been shed, which is true. A great deal has been shed, though as far as I know, Sir, I am not aware that any commando has gone out except when the robbers had given the first cause for it; and as to the orders I have got from you and the Military Court, Sir, namely, that the Field Corporals shall have no fight with the Bushmen without orders from me, it is a matter of impossibility, and the reason why is, that the robbers are busy almost every day robbing and murdering. Secondly, should any of the Field Corporals be obliged to wait some three weeks before they have orders back from me, as they live so far from me, Mr. Berg, if I must attend to these orders which you have sent me, the robbers will have it just to their fancy; for now the plundered cattle is frequently retaken from them when the Field Corporals are quickly at hand in order to pursue them before they reach their dens with the booty; but if, according to your directions, I must issue these orders to the Field Corporals, the people of Sneeuwberg and the Nieuwveld will be rid of their cattle in a few days; for they must resist daily, or they will be all forced to abandon their farms; and then, we, inhabitants of Swarteberg and Camdeboo, will be also unable to hold out; for the robbers have collected together by thousands; and also the Field Corporal Adriaan van Jaarsveld, with some of his men, has already fled from Sneeuwberg to Camdeboo.⁽²⁾ Van

(1) The letter to Opperman of the same date is omitted, being identical with the latter portion of the resolution, without the preamble contained in the first paragraphs of the latter.

(2) Similar restrictions upon the employment of commandos have frequently drawn forth similar remonstrances. *Vide* Capt. Stockenstrom's Observations on General Burke's *confidential* order against crossing the boundary in pursuit of plunder, 9th August, 1826, (Parl. papers, Part I. p. 119,) 20th Feb. and 7th April, 1827.

In the same manner the sentiment of Opperman relative to the effect of yielding to violence by flight, will be found, in other language, in Sir J. Cradock's despatches, explanatory of the expulsion of the Kafirs in 1811, March 7, June 10—23, Nov. 18, 1812.

These, and many other official authorities will be found to refer, in general terms to the events of this period, upon which their information was evidently derived from sources which were not the best: and it will frequently appear that the value of the *evidence* should be measured by some other standard than the rank or the general intelligence of the witness.

Jaarsveld has also sent me a letter, and has asked me for a great commando in the month of August, which letter I send you, together with the report; from these papers you may see, Mr. Berg, how it is with the robbers. It is also my request, Mr. Berg, that you will be pleased to write me what I must now do about the orders you have given, and about the request which I made to you about a great commando, whether it is to take place or not, for the Field Corporals Jaarsveld and De Klerk plague me for a great commando, and here I can give them no help, for the robbers are busy plundering in every quarter.

I also send you a Hottentot, Mr. Berg, who has done much mischief, as I have to inform you, Sir, when you will be fully convinced. I reported to you that the slave of Theunis van der Berg had been killed with arrows by the robbers. On this I went myself with a commando to try to find them; but when two days out, the horse of one of my men fell sick, and I dared not ride any further; so I thought it good to collect a few faithful Hottentots and Bastards who could handle fire arms, and to let them patrol about the Swarteberg, to see if they could light on the robbers; so I sent to the people in my district to tell them that those who had faithful Hottentots or Bastards that could use a gun, should send them to me, which they did, and this fellow was sent by J. de Wegen with a gun to come to me; but instead of coming to me, he went to the robbers, and told them a commando was out against them, on which they fled. 14 days after he returned to his master with the gun, so that I firmly believe he knew of the murder, as he knew where the robbers were. I therefore request, Mr. Berg, that you will be pleased to take care that such rogues do not return to the country, as such fellows induce the robbers to plunder, and when they expect to be discovered, they join them, and are then the principal robbers and murderers.

Extract Records of Landdrost and Militia Court Stellenbosch.

1776. June 4. The letter addressed to the Governor and Council according to the resolution of May 7, being laid on the table and signed; it was stated by the Landdrost, that since preparing that letter, he had, on the 1st and 2d instant, successively received three letters from the Field Commandant Opperman, dated 1st March and 1st and 17th May, together with an annexed report from A. van Jaarsveld, dated 18th March, which report and letters being produced and read, it appeared that it was still strongly insisted on that a general commando was required to oppose and repel the increasing depredations of the Bushman Hottentots. It was, therefore, resolved to send the originals of these letters, as well as of those referred to in our said letter to the government, (keeping here authentic copies,) with an express letter of this date as a supplement to the other, and to forward the letters in answer to Commandant Opperman, with an open order to the several Field Sergeants for its speedier transmission.....⁽¹⁾

Extract Resolution of Council.

1776. June 11. Whereas it appears, as well from the tenor of two letters addressed to this Council by the Landdrost and Militia Court of Stellenbosch on the 7th May and 8th June last, as from the accompanying correspondence between the said Court and Field Commandant Opperman, and between said Opperman and some of his subordinate Sergeants, that the Bushman Hottentots have again proceeded to commit murder and robbery, to such an extent that several of our inhabitants have already abandoned their farms, and that the said Landdrost and Militia Court have thus been reduced to the inevitable necessity of directing the said Commandant to oppose the said depredations and insolence of the Bushmen by sending out one or more commandos, we have thus been obliged to approve of these orders, as being issued for the best, and

(1) The proceedings of this day refer to the refusal of A. H. Krugel,—subsequently a prominent character in the disorders of Graaf-Reinet,—to allow the people beyond De Bruins Hoogte to serve on commando, 48 persons had joined him on a request to continue under the Swellendam magistracy; but an order from government (11th June) directed him to submit to Stellenbosch. The appointment of Field Corporals and the refusal of the board to accept resignations of Field Sergeants, or to excuse from burgers' duties, for the want of sufficient evidence of sickness, &c. occupying the residue of the journal of the day.

The letters of the board to government dated May 7 and June 4, contain nothing additional, and are therefore omitted. The following is an inventory of the papers sent in original to Cape Town, and which formed the grounds of the Resolution of Council of June 11, 1776. Opperman's letters of 1st, 3d, and 27th March, 13th April, 1st and 17th May; Van Jaarsveld's of March 18. Letters from Landdrost, &c. to Opperman of 5th March, 2d April and 7th May.

to grant the 400 pounds of gunpowder and 800 pounds lead which has been requested. The said board shall, however, be enjoined by letter, notwithstanding the slight chance which appears to exist, of being able to keep the Bushmen quiet by any less stringent means, that a watchful eye be kept, that in attacking the said tribe, the inhabitants do not go further than is absolutely necessary to check their insolence.⁽¹⁾

Extract Records of Landdrost and Militia Officers Stellenbosch.

1776. Sept. 3. The extract of the Government Resolution, relative to the line of division between these districts and that of Swellendam, which was yesterday produced in the meeting of Heemraeden being read to the effect. [Here is recited the Resolution of July 11, *at supra p 46.*) It was resolved on the proposal of the Landdrost, to send a copy of the same with a letter, for the information of Commandant Opperman, with directions to exhibit it in a friendly manner, to such of the people of the Swellendam district, as possess farms, which, in consequence of the change of boundaries, are comprised within these districts; and to inquire why they disclaim the authority of this magistracy; and are thus unwilling to serve with others upon the necessary commandos against the Bushmen there. The Commandant shall also be informed of the recent appointment of Field Corporals.

With regard to the said Opperman, the Landdrost stated, that he had indirectly learnt, that some of the said Swellendam people had spread certain reports to Opperman's prejudice, but which were not sufficiently specific for official inquiry; and he asked whether any of the members knew any thing against him with respect to the discharge of his duties as Commandant, and if so to state the same without reserve. The members unanimously stated, that they were not aware of any thing of the kind, but that, on the contrary, as far as they knew, he performed his duty properly, and enjoyed an unblemished reputation, and that these reports chiefly arose from such ill disposed inhabitants, as finding themselves, by the change of boundaries, included in the general case (*sauk*) with the Bushmen, would gladly be protected from their robberies and murders, without taking any share in the support of their fellow men.⁽²⁾

The Landdrost stated that the retired Lieutenant of the Cape District, N. Laubscher, had represented that the Bushmen in Hantam, and the neighbourhood of Groote Bokkeveld, were become very bold and violent in murdering and robbing, so that the inhabitants were attacked in their dwellings, and were not sure of their lives; and that the robbers, while the inhabitants were assembling, as well as from the tardiness of pursuit after they had assembled, could not be followed fast enough, but betook themselves to their caverns; he, Laubscher, had, therefore, with the advice of several inhabitants, deemed it best that a mounted guard of 30 unmarried men should be stationed there for three or four consecutive months, for reasonable pay, the inhabitants there finding them in provisions, so as thus the more easily to watch the paths, or by separate patroles, to overtake and seize, or even to shoot the robbers, but in particular their spies and leaders. That Laubscher having already spoken with some inhabitants of the Cape district on the subject, those of Tygerberg and Koeberg said that they would very willingly bear their share of the expences. That he had requested that this subject might be taken into consideration, and, if possible, put in force. That he, the Landdrost, had pointed out to the said Laubscher the difficulties in the way, and answered that it could not well be entered into, until it be ascertained how much would be contributed, and whether the contributions would suffice to meet the expences, and that Laubscher should first get a subscription list, stating how much each of the said inhabitants would undertake to pay, and which Laubscher had undertaken to do.....

(1) A similar entry in the Colonial Office Journal of the day, is the only notice on the subject to be found in the volume for 1776. A letter to the same purport was addressed on the same day to Stellenbosch, on receipt of which it was resolved to forward the ammunition to Opperman in the manner suggested by him.

(2) The Swellendam district had been for many years free from any thing beyond slight and occasional depredations; and until the arrival of the Kafirs, such was also the case beyond De Bruyns Hoogte. The records of the Swellendam Militia Court, with some remarkable exceptions, generally refer exclusively to the measures necessary to enforce the annual drill and review. At the meeting in Oct 1776, fifty-nine farmers were summoned as absentees from drill, nine excused upon payment of the lighter penalty, and ten on account of ill health, on the usual condition of "keeping their arms in order, and in case of general necessity, (*lands nood*) on recovery resuming their duties as before." Many of those persons resided 400 miles from the place of drill.

Extracts Records Landdrost and Militia Court Stellenbosch.

1776. Nov. 5. The recently appointed Field Corporal in the Groote Roggeveld, J. A. Louw having, in the name of the Field Sergeant W. Steinkamp, requested that he might be assisted by the Field Sergeant of Oliphant River, J. P. Smit, and his men, in a commando against the plundering Bushmen, it was resolved that the necessary directions on the subject shall be given by the Field Commandant Opperman, now present. While the second request of the said Field Corporal Louw, that he may be relieved of the duties of that office, was positively refused, in consequence of the insufficiency of the reasons advanced by him.

With regard to future commandos by the Field Sergeants and Corporals, it was understood, that whenever the Field Corporal shall have ridden round to call out the men, he shall remain at home during that commando, in order that, in the absence of the Field Sergeant, who in that case must himself go on the commando, he may give the necessary directions for the defence of the district; and, in like manner, with regard to the Field Sergeants, when they may have ridden round to order out the men.....

The Burger J. H. Robbertse, who had for some time been appointed provisional Field Corporal in the Coup, was, on the proposal of Monsieur Opperman, excused from that office, and from burger services, in consequence of inability; and as the said country of the Coup is abandoned on account of want of water and good pasture, it was resolved to appoint no Field Corporal there.⁽¹⁾

The said Field Commandant Opperman having requested some compensation for the loss sustained in the performance of his troublesome duties, which frequently obliged him to neglect his own affairs, and that a sum of money, to be fixed at the discretion of the board, might be granted to him, adding that the *douceur* of 50 Rix-dollars allowed him last year had not yet been paid; it was, after deliberation, unanimously resolved, again to grant him an extraordinary *douceur* of 50 Rix-dollars.

After which, the Landdrost read the reports laid before him by the Commandant, from the Field Sergeants under his orders; and it appearing, among other matters, from that of H. M. van der Berg, (2) that he complained that, among other things laid to his charge and that of the men under him by H. Krugel, it had been stated, that they inhumanly illtreated the Bushmen; with an accompanying request that the charge might be investigated in the most rigid manner, and the guilty punished according to desert; or, on the contrary appearing, that such scandalous and defamatory reports may be satisfactorily counteracted. When it was resolved, on account of the inferiority of this board, to postpone this affair until the next meeting.....

Letter from Twenty-five Inhabitants of Sneeuwberg, &c.

1776. Nov. 17. (++) To Mr. Commandant G. R. Opperman.—We your humble and obedient [servants] make known, with submission and respect, the melancholy condition in which we now live in Kandebo and Sneeuwberg, for the commando under the Sergeant Adriaan van Jaarsveld has been of no effect, and the second under Charl Marais had done very little; they fell in, indeed, with a great multitude of robbers, but could not defeat them in consequence of their numbers, and their own weakness; on which Van Jaarsveld removed to beyond De Bruyns Hoogte, which renders the inhabitants of Sneeuwberg very desperate, not knowing what to do, whether to remain or to remove; though many are of a mind to remove beyond De Bruyns Hoogte, for the inhabitants there, as yet, live in a desirable state of peace, while we, on the contrary, must daily live in the greatest danger of our lives. But there still remains for us one hope, that your superior power and authority may assist in procuring peace for us, according to the request we have made to our government, on which all depend for some alleviation; for otherwise there

(1) When the description of the districts for which the several country officers were appointed, and of the loan farms granted, are considered, the meaning of the text will appear to be "no Corporal for that country." Jaarsveld was Corporal *beyond* Salt River, (in Coup,) in 1770, (*supra*, p. 7.) when he was probably several hundred miles beyond it, and the situations of the loan farms were generally still more loosely defined; indeed, they had extended many hundred miles to the eastward before the clause was omitted which provided that they were not to be *too near* the Company's farm, at Groene Kloof.

(2) This officer was subsequently, as Heemraad of Graaff-Reinet, as remarkable for the support he gave to Mr. Maynier, as Van Jaarsveld became as the leader of the popular party. Krugel, like Jaarsveld was a "representative of the public voice" during the singular republican movements which followed the Kafir war of 1793.

is no staying nor escaping, for deeds of violence are getting the upper hand more and more every day. Houses burned, Hugo's slave murdered and cut in pieces. Oh! must not the heavens tremble, and the earth shudder at the troubles with which your servants are oppressed, and we are daily becoming more fearful that we shall lose our own lives; for all that we have as yet done has been lost labour; and without the help of your authority we must at last lose every thing.

We, therefore, through necessity, take the liberty of addressing ourselves to you, and requesting a speedy answer to our petition to our government, according to which each will be enabled to regulate himself. And on account of the same truths, and seeing the approach of the same consequences of their ruin in Candebo, the inhabitants of the latter have also signed; the same troubles will reach them, for the Sneeuberg is becoming weaker and weaker from the migration of its inhabitants.

We remain in hope and trust that you will not be dilatory with regard to our request, and have the honor, with all respect, to subscribe ourselves, and trust that we are, your willing servants, D. S. van der Merwe, J. Smit, J. J. H. van der Merwe, B. J. Burger, Schalk W. Burger, W. Burger, J. van der Merwe, jun., J. Joosten, jun., H. van der Walt, P. Venter, Hs., J. van der Walt, Carel van der Merwe, A. P. Burger, R. van Heeren, H. C. Herholdz, J. F. du Pree, J. van der Merwe, D. van der Berg, G. J. Koekemoer, A. Oberholzer, A. A. Smit, J. Oberholzer, A. P. van der Berg, Albertus van Jaarsveld, W. Basson.⁽¹⁾

Extract Records Landdrost and Militia Court Stellenbosch.

1776 Dec. 10. The Landdrost stated that he had received a petition from the inhabitants about Oliphants River, dated 25th Nov. last, principally requesting that they may be excused from attending upon the commando, which, according to the resolution of the 5th ult. was ordered to the assistance of Field Sergeant W. Steinkamp, of the Groote Roggeveld; after reading which, it was unanimously resolved, that the Secretary should write the Field Sergeant of the said Oliphants River, J. P. Smit, in the name of this board, and state in reply, that as it appeared that, with three exceptions, all the subscribers of the said petition had been absentees from the last drill and review, so that their horses were still unfatigued, we for these and other reasons us thereunto moving, have thought fit to adhere to the resolution of the 5th Nov. and to order that the said Smit and his men shall give all possible assistance to the said Steinkamp, in order that the commando may proceed as speedily as possible. But as to Steinkamp's request for 150 pounds of powder, and 400 pounds of lead, it was unanimously resolved, that this cannot at present be granted with propriety, as in July last a quantity of 400 pounds of powder, and 800 pounds lead, had been forwarded to the Field Commandant; which ammunition, in all probability, has not been all distributed.....

It was lastly resolved, on the proposal of the Landdrost, that in consequence of the incompleteness of this meeting, the request of the inhabitants of Sneeuberg, and the matter concerning H. Krugel, mentioned in former resolutions, should be again postponed to the next, or rather to the first complete meeting.⁽²⁾

(1) This was one of several papers not received by the magistracy at Stellenbosch until the 19th April, 1777.

Commissioner Collins (Record, Part II, p. 7.) offers some natural conjectures regarding the origin of the hostilities with the Bushmen in Camdebo; among them "the description of the then inhabitants;" "the persons who were obliged to seek a residence in such a country;" and much has been said by others, in official papers as well as in popular works, upon the subsequent influence of religion and regular government in producing a favorable change in this respect. The names of the signers of this petition will appear frequently in the course of these papers, subscribed to their own sentiments, which may be compared with those of their descendants. It will appear below, from the list of leases of loan farms, that these were the "respectable persons of good name and repute" to whom alone Governor Tulbagh (*supra* p. 5.) undertook to restrict settlement in that quarter. They will appear to be the same persons whose conduct, during the subsequent disorders, was on all hands favorably contrasted with that of the "turbulent" who had been ejected from their dwellings by the Kafir invasions of 1793—99. Another mode of accounting for the conduct of the first inhabitants of the Camdeboo, and for the turbulence of those of the Zuurveld, will be found in the circumstances under which the character of both was developed, as ascertained by the unpublished evidence. (*Vide* Preparatory Lists, 1777—1802.)

(2) The first portion of the proceedings of this meeting consists of a resolution to postpone issuing the summonses against the absentees from the drill at Stellenbosch, until returns be received from the several country officers, of the names of the men kept at home for the defence of the country, or "for commandos against the still daily plundering Bushmen," in order to prevent trouble and expense being blamelessly incurred by the absentees.

1776. Dec. 18. A letter from the Governor to the Landdrost of Swellendam calls for a report upon a complaint against the magistracy of that place lodged by the burger Frederik Zeele, of injustice suffered by him upon the unfounded complaint of the Bastaard Hottentot, Fredrick Wilken. No particulars are stated.

General Report of Field Serjeant D. S. van der Merwe.

1777. March 13. (††) On the 19th Dec. I was called upon by Carel van der Merwe for aid, in the first place.

“Worthy brother David Schalk van der Merwe. Should this letter reach you safe, it will be pleasing to me. As regards myself I am not yet well, and now the glands are so swollen in my thighs, that I can scarce walk; and as to the condition of the country, it is very bad, because the Bossiemans have so much their own way without opposition, and they have pushed in so far that they have passed me, and are round me day and night. On the 18th of the month, in the evening, they attacked P. Venter’s herdsmen close to his house, wounded them very severely, and murdered a very great number of sheep; from Dirk Coetse, also a lot; and from Koster, a lot of cattle away; Klaas Smit very severely wounded; here are no farms, or very few, that do not suffer under their violence. Oh, Heavenly King, look down upon us to our comfort and to the terror of our haughty enemies, for murder and riot are daily getting more and more the upperhand, and thus we must live in great extremity. I therefore beg you, in God’s name, that you will but give us so much help, as to beat the robbers back out of the mountains, were it but so many Hottentots, as quick as you can send them to me. Should we receive no help or deliverance, you may be assured by me that the time is not far off when you shall have all who now live in the whole range of mountains, in the Camdebo, for the anxiety of our hearts urges us more and more, because we are much too weak to oppose the numbers that have collected together in hundreds and thousands, and advanced against us, so that we are not certain of our lives for an hour. I shall, therefore, conclude, trusting that you will give us aid. A thousand greetings from your necessitous brother and sister,

“19th December, 1777.”

“CAREL VAN DER MERWE.”

On this letter I ordered out my men, J. van der Merwe, J. L. Pretorius, P. van der Berg, who did not come, J. Peffer, F. Swartenberg, J. C. Olivier. Ordered H. C. Herholt, but he did not appear, as he says, because Oilvier would not let him ride. Contents of the letter of said Olivier:—

“Good friend D. S. van der Merwe, I have received your letter, and learn from it that it will not turn out well; that you may think of it, I have sent the Hottentot early; for the rest, think well of it before you order me. My compliments to you.

“21st December, 1777.”

“C. OLIVIER.”

On the night of the 22d, I got to Carel van der Merwe’s; the same night about two hours before day the robbers were among the cattle; but I attacked them again, with my men, and retook the cattle, except one that they had killed with an assagay. We staid there two days and sent out spies, but they found nothing; so we rode to Dirk Coetse’s, and again sent out spies, but saw nothing. At Coetse’s I got a letter from H. van der Merwe, from which I learnt that the Bushmen were in the mountains near my house; so, on the fourth day, we all rode from Coetse’s to my house; and on the 30th I got a letter from the Field Corporal A. P. Burger, running thus:—

“Very worthy and much esteemed nephew and niece, D. S. van der Merwe.—I shall be well pleased to hear that this reaches you safely, as to ourselves we are still well; but I find myself compelled to write you, for we fear that we are too weak, as we hear that such an immense number have collected: however, although the victory does not depend upon numbers, the Lord has often employed the arms of war to subdue his enemies, as was done by the great illustrious King David, and is recorded for us in 2d Samuel; and as the rule is laid down for us, in God’s holy word, to seek human aid in time of need, (Joshua 10 and 11,) so do not turn away from us, but come and help to defeat the great kraal, and let us be strong and fight for the name of the Lord our God. The Lord will do what is good in his sight, therefore, may he give you courage to contend against our enemies, for the insolence (*rasery*) of the heathen is striving to get the upperhand more every day. Oh! who shall live if God will (otherwise); for whoever looks upon the present state of christendom with an attentive eye, and with judgment, must perceive that it is in a dead and unfruitful state, and that all is plunged into a confused and lifeless mass. I shall, therefore, expect you on the 1st Jan. 1777, for if you come to the fight in person with some chosen men, it will be very pleasing to me. Now, God and the word of his grace be praised, with compliments to you all, I remain your cousin Andries P. Burger. (Signed) 30th Dec. 1776.”

Upon this request I ordered my men and rode. The men’s names were J. van der Merwe, H. C. Herholt, J. Peffer, C. Persoon, F. Toornheem, P. Swanepoel; C. de Clerk was ordered,

1777 Jan. 7. A notice of the proceedings of the Militia Court, on this date, states that, with respect to men kept from attending review by the officers of the distant districts, the resolution of the 10th December shall be adhered to; and on the written proposal of Opperman, Carel van der Merwe is appointed Field Sergeant of Sneeuberg, *vice* Jaarsveld removed to Bruyns Hooge. “From 8th Jan. to 2d Feb. nothing occurred.”

but sent a Hottentot in his place, because he alleged that he was sick ; but on the day when the commando marched, it was found out that De Clerk was at Abraham Oberholster's on the 1st Jan. 1777, and on the former commando also he did not appear, pretending that he had an eruption on his body ; and J. S. Pretorius, who was on the commando, told me that De Clerk had said to him that he was too old to serve on commandos. J. S. Pretorius did not attend, as his horse was lame and could not go. Jan Steinvat was ordered, but did not appear, and sent nothing in the way of an excuse ; G. J. Koekemoer ordered, but did not appear, as he wrote me, in consequence of boils in his legs ; G. Loetriet personally ordered, but sent a Bastaard in his stead, who did not overtake the commando.

On the 1st Jan. 1777, we came to D. de Villiers'. On the 2d to Jacob de Clerk's. The 3d to Cornelius van Wyk's. The 4th to *Verquik Fontein*. The 5th we rode through to near the great kraal, and in the morning through the *Waay Hoek* to the *Duyvels Berg*, where we found the robbers, and shot or captured 62 ; but the greatest part escaped, having seen us from a distance ; but on the same day we went further on account of water, to the *Drie Vonteynen* ; but that water was so salt that hardly any one could drink it. On the same day the horse of D. Boek fell down ; on the same day we went further on to the *Krikvors* (Frog) *Vonteyn* ; but there was not water for us and the cattle to drink, there being more frogs than water. The same night some men turned back to the *Verquik Vonteyn*, there we sent out scouts, saw traces, but found nothing ; we therefore turned back, and on the 11th Jan. got home.

General report of me the undersigned Sergeant, of the commando of the 15th Feb. 1777, to Commandant Opperman. Of the men whom I had ordered, I was joined at the house of B. J. Burger, by J. S. Pretorius, J. Pester, J. F. du Pree, F. Swartenberg, G. Loetriet, J. Swanepoel, G. S. Koekemoer, F. G. Toornheem, C. Persoon, J. Steinvat ordered, but did not appear, so I set him down as unwilling ; J. van der Merwe ordered, but wrote me that his horse had fallen on him and hurt him ; H. C. Herholt ordered, but sent me a letter signed by two witnesses, that he was plagued with some boils, and could not ride ; Daniel Jacobs ordered, but wrote me a letter running thus :—

“ Cousin David van der Merwe. After wishing you health, I have to inform you that I cannot ride upon this commando. Then my child is sick. Then I am on my road to Bruintjes Hoogte, but have not been able to get further than to my brother Laurens Erasmus, and that I am there as the witnesses know also. Further compliments from me and my wife, your cousin, Daniel Jacobs. Per order, Roedolf Brets, Reklef Reklefs, 7th Jan. 1777.”

Upon (receiving) this letter, I wrote him that should his child get better, he must appear without fail at the place where he was ordered to come ; and that he well knew it was the order that none should remove before apprising me, because it was impossible for me to make a proper report of persons who did not appear. On this he sent me back the following letter :—

“ Monsieur David Schalk van der Merwe. Whereas I have learnt from your letter that I have acted amiss to you by removing without permission from my worshipful Sergeant ; but I beg you to excuse me, for I have done it through my stupidity ; for I have always heard that when new laws come out they are placarded, and I have not yet heard of the placard ; but now I know it also that I must not remove without permission from my worshipful Sergeant ; and if my child recovers, I shall appear before you, Sergeant. I remain your obedient and willing soldier, Daniel Jacobs. 1st Feb 1777.”

Outside was “ To Mynheer, Mynheer D. S. van der Merwe, Field Sergeant.”

From this letter of Jacobs, although he says that he has done it, that is, removed without my orders, through stupidity, the rest of his letter shows that it is from no stupidity, but that he tries to turn the letter I sent him into ridicule, as may be seen from the address of the letter, for I have no right to such a title as the supreme government ; and I imagine he knows very well how to address me. I also ordered the wagon of C. de Clerk on the commando, to convey the provision's, but he sent the wagon without a tilt ; I then sent him a letter to send the tilt, as he was ordered to send his wagon with all its appurtenances ; on which he sent me a letter running as follows :—

“ Monsieur D. S. van der Merwe. You write me to send my wagon tilt to-morrow, which it is impossible that I can do, as it is the bolster of my bed. I am not unwilling, if I had enough bed clothes, to give the tilt, but I am deficient in these. I remain, therefore, after compliments, your friend, Cornelius de Clerk. 10th Feb. 1777. Turning over (the paper) I found the following words written ;—“ The tilt of which I write you, is the bolster for my head, and my wife is my mattress ; so if you claim the tilt by force, order the mattress with it, as cook.”

From this, Mr. Commandant, you may see how little these persons care for my orders. I hereby request that such persons may be punished, so that others profit by the example.

Now I shall proceed to the persons ordered from the Sergeant Josua Joubert. Their names as follows:—J. S. du Plessis, J. Venter, J. Smit, J. Schoenman, A. A. Smit, W. van der Berg, Reklef Reklefs, J. Harholt, D. Booyse, J. Voortman; and with the Field Corporal B. J. Burger, Tjaart van der Walt, Jan Koese, Sarel du Plessie, H. Kruyger, Carel Pelster, J. van Heere, J. Pretorius, H. Mares, B. Vilgeon; and Hottentots of mine there were ten; and of Sergeant J. Joubert there were four; and of the Field Corporal, B. J. Burger, there were twelve Hottentots. The night after we came to the Field Corporal's, six scouts came to him whom he had sent out five days before, to see if none of the robbers were about his farm who might discover the commando; and they found a kraal of the robbers at the distance of about an hour and a half's journey on horseback; but in consequence of a heavy shower of rain, they came suddenly upon them, and the robbers fled. On the 16th we sent out the first scouts, in two parties, one party to follow the fugitive kraal, and they found them again, but the robbers came close upon them, and they shot one of the robbers, when the kraal again took to flight; they came home on the 18th, and the party who had gone to Rhenoster Berg returned on the 20th, having found nothing. On the 18th the first horse fell, of H. Pretorius; on the 19th another of Sergeant J. Joubert; on the same day sent out spies for the third time after the fugitive kraal, and they found the kraal on the 21st. On the 22d we went from B. J. Burger's to J. van der Merwe, to attack the kraal that had been found, and surrounded it on the 23d, before day, and through the fault of one who sent H. Hatting in his stead, the kraal was scared away before day, through the fault of a useless man named J. Vortman. On the 20th the Bushmen were among J. van der Merwe's cattle, and tried to take them from the herdsmen by force, but the herdsmen shot one of the robbers, when they fled, without carrying off anything. On the 21st we pursued the robbers the whole day, with the whole commando, but could not light on them, though we saw numerous foot marks; the people with us saw them the same day. On the 23d we went to the end of the *Rooy Berg*, to a spring called *Vink Vonteyn*. On the 24th sent out spies in three parties; on the 26th two parties returned having found nothing. On the 27th the third and last party returned, but had found nothing. On the same day we went to below *Sapanjas Poorts River* to the *Babeloonsche Tooren*, to the old defeated kraal, where the late Van der Walt and three other men were wounded. On the 28th, in the morning, Tjaart van der Walt and J. S. Pretorius clambered up on a ridge, and saw the robbers moving off; we then sent out scouts in three parties, after a portion of the robbers who had been seen by the men mentioned. On the 2d March the party of scouts returned who had followed the kraal that had gone away, and they found them; but coming upon them unawares, the robbers fled, they then commenced firing, killed 9, and took two of the robbers. On the same day a party of scouts joined us; they had seen, on a ridge, fifteen male Hottentots, who had slept there. On the 3d we went thither to defeat them, but they were gone; we followed in the same direction, but could not find them. On the 4th we were out on high mountains, three hours before day to reconnoitre, but could see nothing, for they make no fires. We constantly saw traces where they had fled, and also kraals that were abandoned. On the night of the 4th we moved to Krom River, and the same night sent out scouts. On the 6th the two parties of scouts returned, they had found a kraal that was removing, and coming too near, they were obliged to fire, and shot three. Total, one wounded, fourteen killed, and two prisoners. So I remain, with respect, your willing friend,

D. S. VAN DER MERWE, Sergeant.

[“Received from Veld Commandant Opperman, per
L. Erasmus, 19th April, 1777, by me, Bergh.”]

In Collin's Report on the Bushmen, (Record v. 34,) may be seen a traditional account of the origin of hostilities with the Bushmen of the Sak River and Hantam. The following account of the same event has been recently furnished by the Baron von Buchenroder, from notes of verbal information given in 1808, by Mr. J. G. van Reenen, son of the Van Reenen mentioned by Collin. “J. G. van Reenen says that his father had farms at Sak River, where the Bushmen (who differed from those called *Siniscen*,*) lived very peaceably and amicably. Andries Jacobs, a servant of Van Reenen's had, while hunting, a quarrel with a Captain named Hacqua, and beat him with a samboc. This Captain was a very active Hottentot, and was highly respected. His name, which meant “Horse,” was acquired from his swiftness in running.) In revenge of this injury, he killed the servant (Jacobs). The Bushmen had all the cattle driven home from the field, and took away those belonging to Jacobs, allowing all Van Reenen's to remain. Meanwhile the other servant of Van Reenen's had left the place to tell his master, and to complain of the conduct of Jacobs. Van Reenen says that on this the

* At various periods, but perhaps first in 1752, the tribes who occupied the country about Kat River were distinguished by the name of *Chinese*. The language, or at least the dialect, of the several Bushmen tribes differed from that of the Hottentots, and of each other. But upon all these points more conclusive information will be found in other portions of this compilation—where, indeed, several of these notes would—if required at all—have been more advantageously placed; but that it is at present (Oct. 8, 1841,) extremely doubtful whether it will be possible to proceed with the publication of the Record any further than this sheet.









